

Hawke's Bay PHO votes to give general practice more say

Health Hawke's Bay's Board of Directors and the Te Matau ā Māui Trust Board (shareholders) of the Hawke's Bay Primary Health Organisation (PHO) voted (Wednesday 25 February) to change the PHO's ownership structure to general practice, giving them greater influence and representation.

The change required approval from Te Matau ā Māui Trust which was supported by the Board.

Health Hawke's Bay Board Chair Dr Kevin Snee said the organisation would now consult with general practice on the design of the new structure, before developing a revised ownership model.

"General practice was the frontline of the health system and maintained strong, trusted relationships with patients. The proposed ownership changes would give practices more say in where investment should be directed to improve patient outcomes"

"To remain viable and so general practice continues to see value in staying with Health Hawke's Bay, we need to give practices greater involvement and influence and say on where investment in primary care should be made" Dr Snee said.

"The new structure will provide general practice with stronger representation and oversight of priorities, ultimately benefiting patients in our region through the work delivered in general practice."

Dr Snee acknowledged the contribution of the ten trustees of Te Matau ā Māui Trust.

The Trust, established in 2011, held all the shares in Health Hawke's Bay. It was mandated to improve community health outcomes, reduce inequities, and support integrated services across the region.

"These priorities will continue and be strengthened through a closer partnership with general practice," Dr Snee said.

Under the proposed new structure, the Te Matau ā Māui Trust would be disestablished, and its shares transferred to Health Hawke's Bay's general practices.

ENDS For further information, contact us: Comms@healthhb.co.nz

Note: [Te Matau-ā-Māui Trust](#) is the current shareholders of Health Hawke's Bay. This group represents our four councils, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi, Nursing and the Hawke's Bay Faculty of GPs.