

Funding & Framework

BETTER, SOONER, MORE CONVENIENT HEALTHCARE

New Zealand is spending more on health but getting less for it.

Despite spending an extra \$6 billion a year on health compared to when Labour came to office, New Zealanders have to be sicker to get surgery.

It's harder to see a hospital specialist. Emergency departments are gridlocked. Radiotherapy times are frequently excessive. Increasingly, workforce shortages mean people have to wait longer to see their local GP. The unchecked rise in bureaucracy throughout the health system is diverting money that should be spent on disease prevention and patient care.

National wants the public health system to deliver better, sooner, more convenient healthcare for all New Zealanders. We want shorter waiting times, less bureaucracy, and a trusted and motivated health workforce.

Our health service can be improved to meet these challenges without the distraction of restructuring. We have the right people on the front line of healthcare. We need to empower them to do the job even better.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Effective healthcare, sooner
- Frontline services, not more bureaucrats.
- Fresh leadership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

READ › National's Health Policy – Part I Funding & Framework.

SEE › Our Health Discussion Paper.

SEE › Our web page on Health.

NOTE:

This policy was originally released on 11/09/08. It has been updated to include the information provided in the 2008 Pre-Election Fiscal Update.

NATIONAL'S PLAN

1. Continuing the Current Health Spending Growth Track

Continue the growth in health spending set out in the 2008 Pre-Election Fiscal Update. This includes the Government's indicative spending allocations.

2. Less Bureaucracy, More Frontline Care for Patients

Reduce the bureaucracy in health. Savings will be moved to boost frontline care for patients.

3. Giving Doctors and Nurses More Say

Ensure that doctors, nurses, and other health professionals have more say in how health services are developed and improved. We will do this by requiring DHBs to involve health professionals in decision-making.

4. DHBs Working Together

- Require the 21 district health boards to work more collaboratively to improve access to services and reduce administrative duplication and waste.
- Not carry out another round of restructuring of the public health system.

5. Care Closer to Home

Devolve more hospital-based services into primary-care settings, providing faster access to more care closer to home. We will do this through delegated funding to PHOs and other health providers.

6. Smarter Use of the Private Sector

Support the smart use of the private sector to increase the number of people getting timely access to vitally needed surgery, and reduce hospital waiting lists.