

18<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
Health Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington



## **Submission on the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Amendment Bill**

Tēnā koutou Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Amendment Bill (the Bill). Whānau Āwhina Plunket does not support the proposed Bill and recommends it does not progress to a second reading. While improving Māori voice in the health system is a stated objective, many of the proposed changes do not align with this. We are concerned that the proposed changes will negatively impact Māori representation and autonomy within the health system.

The Bill makes changes to the scope of the role of Iwi Māori Partnership Boards (IMPBs) - one of the key mechanisms to elevate Māori voice in the health system. If the Bill passes, the role of IMPBs will change from a decision making body to an advisory one. IMPBs will no longer provide advice directly to Health New Zealand; rather they will advise the Hauora Māori Advisory Committee (HMAC), who will engage with Health New Zealand.

We agree with the amendment to increase the scope of the Hauora Māori Advisory Committee (HMAC). However, it appears this change is in context of reducing the scope of the role of the IMPBs. IMPBs represent their communities and have an intimate knowledge of what is needed for whānau in their area. This expertise will not be reflected in the membership of the HMAC. Furthermore, proposed changes mean HMAC will now be comprised of appointed members rather than members who are elected or nominated as Māori representatives by their community. We recommend the HMAC membership is revisited to better support the objectives of the amendments.

The success of the Bill's objectives is dependent on how the Bill is implemented in practice. The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) states that Health NZ would need to implement, monitor and maintain processes to make sure that Māori voices are directly contributing to health system planning. The removal of the requirement for population specific strategies is another factor where implementation must be carefully considered. It is important that there are strong provisions made for achieving equitable health outcomes for populations with high health needs, including Māori.

The Bill reduces the emphasis of the effect to be given to te Tiriti o Waitangi, removes the need for members of the board of Health NZ and the expert advisory committee on public health to have experience and expertise of te Tiriti o Waitangi, and removes the duty of the Health NZ board to ensure "capacity to understand te Tiriti o Waitangi". We are concerned that these changes that have the potential to reduce Māori voice in the health system and have been proposed with minimal consultation with Māori.

We want all tamariki in Aotearoa New Zealand to get the best start and we are concerned that the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Amendment Bill as proposed does not support that. Whānau Āwhina Plunket does not support the Bill and recommends it does not progress to a second reading.

Ngā mihi  
Fiona Kingsford  
Manahautū, Chief Executive  
Whānau Āwhina Plunket

