

## **Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement National Annual Agreement Review 2023 Meeting 5, 21 August 2023**

### **Statement**

The fifth meeting of the 2023 Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) National Annual Agreement Review (NAAR) took place on Monday 21 August 2023 between Te Whatu Ora and the Pharmacy sector representatives. This is likely to be the last meeting prior to the deadline for sending out the letter of offer.

The benefit to all providers of a move to a new contract period starting 1 July was once again articulated. Te Whatu Ora is willing to make this change, but this cannot happen unless every pharmacy with an ICPSA agrees to and signs acceptance of this change. Te Whatu Ora was asked to consider whether it is possible for legal drafting of a conditional letter of offer and voluntary variation that enables the alignment change to a 1 July to 30 June contract year that will only apply if there is 100% provider acceptance, otherwise the contract year and same offer terms will apply from 1 October Te Whatu Ora will clarify this within the next few days.

The draft letter of offer was discussed. The providers supported the refresh of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and requested that the establishment of this group start quickly. The pharmacy representatives accentuated that the pharmacy sector must be fully involved in the ongoing work beyond NAAR into 2024 and 2025 where sustainable funding models for community pharmacy services are discussed and enacted. They asked that communication in the letter of offer about this be clearly stated, with the commitments as specific as is feasible at this time. The group was seeking to reassure pharmacists that their contribution to the health reforms is valued by Te Whatu Ora.

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