

# Aeromedical Commissioning Programme update

December 2024

## Kia ora

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly newsletter for the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme. We are excited to share key updates and upcoming activity as we work through the design process.

### Overview of the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme

In our previous newsletter, we provided an overview of the Programme's vision, background, the design activity and design focus areas. This newsletter aims to provide an update on the key design activity and engagement for this quarter.

## Design activity update

The programme is facilitating the design of the future operating model, taking a long-term view for the air ambulance service. Design activity covers rotary wing and fixed wing air ambulance services (including associated road transfer), and clinical and logistical dispatch and coordination.

The design process has a two-stage approach;

- The design and test stage, working with Design Working Groups to develop draft future operating model options.
- The refine and iterate stage for broader engagement with the sector to test the options developed by the Design Working Groups.

## Design Working Groups

There are three Design Working Groups who have each participated in six workshops from September through December 2024. The groups met to develop design solutions that will be shared with the Clinical and Technical Advisory Group and then the wider sector for consultation. You can read more about the members of each group on our [website](#).

The key activities from each of the Design Working Groups is covered below.

### Design Working Group 1 – Assets, infrastructure, and equipment.

- Fit for purpose rotary and fixed wing aircraft for the service
- Infrastructure required for the service
- Fit for purpose equipment required for the service
- Standardisation and interoperability of equipment
- Equipment procurement

### Design Working Group 2 – Workforce.

- Crewing model, both clinical and aviation, for the service
- Training for the service
- Cultural safety
- Representative workforce

## Design Working Group 3 – Dispatch and Coordination and system governance.

- Dispatch and Coordination function
- Role and scope of function
- Delivery model options for the function
- Information, technology and systems required
- Air ambulance system governance
- Learning system and sharing insights

## Other design focus areas

- The Clinical and Technical Advisory Group has overview of the design process and ensures the future service is integrated to meet the needs of consumers and their whānau.
- Data, technology, and information has been considered across all groups, and a roadmap will be developed to support the future design.
- Investment and funding are being considered by Joint Purchasers to support the future operating model.

## Refine and iterate

We will engage with the sector on the draft design in the new year. In the refine and iterate stage we will seek views on the options developed by the Design Working Groups from broader interested stakeholders.

The dates and approach for engagement will be published on our website, and in the next quarterly newsletter.

If you know people in the sector who may be interested in participating, but are not yet signed up to this newsletter, please encourage them to email [airambulanceteam@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:airambulanceteam@tewhatauora.govt.nz).

# Engagement overview

## Providers

All current rotary wing, fixed wing, road ambulance and dispatch/coordination providers, have had the opportunity to share their perspectives on the future of the service to inform the design process. We have established forums for the rotary wing and fixed wing sector to facilitate regular communication.

## Trusts

We have been engaging with the Community Trusts that support the air ambulance service and have gained valuable insights to inform the future direction.

If you are affiliated with a Trust that supports the air ambulance service and have not yet had the opportunity to be involved in this process, please reach out to us via our email below.

## Iwi Māori Partnership Boards

The Programme presented to the Iwi Māori Partnership Boards, who expressed interest in contributing to the future development of the air ambulance service. Discussions will continue into the new year to further explore this collaboration.

## Regional Consumer Councils

We have contacted all Regional Consumer Councils to gauge their interest in the programme. We have met with the West Coast Regional Consumer Council, and the Northland Regional Consumer Council has expressed interest in engagement. If you are a part of a Regional Consumer Council and would like to be involved, please reach out to us via our email.

# Engagement overview

## Specialties

We have engaged with the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care Unit medical and nursing leads and Hauora Taiwhenua over the last quarter.

In the new year, we plan to connect with representatives from the Paediatric ICU, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation team, Neonatal ICU, College of Air and Surface Transport Nurses, organ retrieval, Blood Services, Paramedic peak bodies, and Hauora Taiwhenua members.

If you are part of a specialty group with an interest in the design of air ambulance who has not been involved in the process to date, please reach out to us via our email.

## Government

We have engaged with the National Emergency Management Agency to discuss the role of air ambulance in major emergency responses, and with Search and Rescue sector representatives to explore the role of air ambulance in search and rescue missions. These discussions will continue into the new year.

Additionally, we have engaged within Health NZ, including with the Integrated Operations Centres and the Group Director of Operations.

# Ngā mihi nui

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone in the sector who has been involved in the design process so far and has contributed their input.

We also extend our gratitude to the Australian jurisdictions for their generosity in sharing information about their air ambulance services with our Design Working Groups.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season, and a special thank you to those continuing to work through the festive season.



# Contact us

If you have any questions or feedback on this work please contact us by email:

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