

A photograph of a modern hospital building with a ramp. Two people are walking on the ramp. The building has a mix of light-colored panels and dark panels. The sky is blue with a geometric pattern overlay.

Building Hospitals Better

Better Value Health Infrastructure, Delivered Faster

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

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Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is delivering a new generation of nationally coordinated health facilities across the motu using our 'Building Hospitals Better' approach. This approach leverages our national scale to deliver faster, more consistent, and future-focused health infrastructure across the country.

In the past, hospital infrastructure projects in New Zealand were delivered by 20 separate District Health Boards, often as bespoke, one-off builds. This fragmented system led to long timelines, inconsistent design quality, and limited ability to scale or reuse successful solutions. Our 'Building Hospitals Better' approach is built on three pillars.



Standardised Approach

Creating a consistent, repeatable foundation for hospital design and delivery.



Staged Delivery

Phased, flexible investment that brings healthcare services online faster.



Strategic Partnership

Working together to deliver faster, more resilient hospital builds.

Why it Matters

This approach delivers health services faster and with better value, with infrastructure that's consistent, adaptable, and built to last. By planning smarter, designing for repeatability, and partnering strategically, Health New Zealand is transforming how hospitals are delivered—so they can meet the needs of communities now and into the future.



Forecasting future health needs

We apply a nationally standardised demand and capacity modelling approach, using health service data and population projections, to plan hospitals that are responsive to current and future community needs.



Designing for consistency and quality

Standardised functional design briefs and Schedules of Accommodation guarantee consistent planning across hospital departments. This saves time, supports clinical practice, and improves delivery certainty.



Using standardised rooms and modular elements

We follow Australasian Health Facility Guidelines and use standard room templates to enable efficient design and ensure delivery of high-quality hospital builds.



Modular 'kit of parts' and reference designs

We are developing repeatable modular elements that can be arranged to meet local needs and complement existing infrastructure. This supports faster design, greater supply chain capability, and better value.

Standardised Approach

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Right-sized, phased developments

We are moving away from large, all-at-once rebuilds that overwhelm the market. Projects are instead broken into manageable stages to deliver clinical priorities sooner and align with market capacity.



Meeting clinical priorities sooner

Phased delivery allows locally specific priority areas to have new and improved infrastructure provided earlier, while other areas are still under construction or in planning.



Reusing and adapting existing buildings

We prioritise investment in existing buildings, extending their life, reducing waste, and improving sustainability. This enables staged delivery focused on high-priority clinical needs.



Smoother, more reliable construction pipeline

Spreading projects over time supports a stable, high-performing construction sector and helps prevent boom-and-bust cycles.

Staged Delivery

Phased, flexible investment that brings healthcare services online faster



Aligned incentives

Our commercial models ensure that Health New Zealand and industry partners share the same goals to deliver better value health infrastructure faster. Our delivery partners are incentivised to solve our challenges and rewarded with long-term relationships and pipeline continuity.



Supply chain innovation

We are actively working with suppliers to grow capability and encourage innovation across all parts of the health infrastructure supply chain.



Modern Methods of Construction

We're enabling modular and off-site construction by using repeatable designs, digital tools, and early market engagement. By designing for assembly, rather than construction, this delivers hospitals faster, improves build quality, and reduces disruption.



Digital design and smarter delivery

Digital modelling tools improve accuracy, support construction planning, reduce costly rework, and support better long-term facility management. By embracing these established and emerging technologies we are at the forefront of design & delivery efficiency

Strategic Partnership

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora