

We will work together with the Ministry to provide further joint advice around broader workforce issues and future plans.

Improving MH&A outcomes requires cross-agency collaboration

42. There are several cross-agency work programmes under way including work with:

- a. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- b. Oranga Tamariki to better address the needs of children and youth in care.
- c. The Ministry of Education to roll out school-based mental wellbeing programmes and enhance mental wellbeing supports in tertiary education institutes.
- d. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on homelessness pilots⁶
- e. Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Justice to respond to the needs of those in the justice system.

Data and information constraints

43. At present, limitations in data and information systems that we have inherited compromise our ability to report on progress and make robust decisions on service planning and development. In many instances, data is collated manually which is time-consuming and poses a high risk of error. While it will take time to implement, a key priority is the development of integrated financial, payroll, contract management and other automated data reporting systems.

Implementing the MH&A System and Service Framework (SSF)

44. The SSF sets out the core components of a contemporary MH&A service continuum with a 10-year view. Our role is to implement the SSF.
45. To do this, a stocktake of national investment by service type and location is under way and will be completed by early 2024. It will result in a current state map of services, providing information on availability generally and for specific populations.
46. The SSF will enable us to take a nationally consistent approach to investment and to removing unwarranted variation, including:
 - a. Addressing variability in NGO pricing.
 - b. Reducing or removing variation in both service availability across locations and access to services.
 - c. Using a clear and consistent commissioning approach to reconfigure and stabilise existing AOD services and create a nationwide system.
 - d. Guiding systematic investment in specialist inpatient unit bed capacity depending on national, regional and local population needs.
 - e. Ensuring that specific communities and populations, such as rural communities and refugees have appropriate and targeted services available to them.

⁶ This work is part of the New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan (2020-2023).

