Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board

Date	29 July 2025
Venue	Online via Teams
Chair for the meeting	Professor Lester Levy (Chair)
Board members	Dr Andrew Connolly, Deputy Chair Dr Frances Hughes, Board member Roger Jarrold, Board member Peter McCardle, Board member Parekawhia McLean, Board member Terry Moore, Board member
Crown Observer:	Hamiora Bowkett, Crown Observer
In Attendance	Dr Dale Bramley, Chief Executive Officer Andrew Cordner, Chief Legal Officer Peta Molloy, Minutes *For part of the meeting:* Darren Douglas, Chief Information Technology Officer (acting) Lisa Hardie, Strategic Business Partner, Digital Services

Karakia

The meeting opened with a Karakia at 9.00am.

Apologies

There were no apologies received.

Register of Interests

It was noted that Parekawhia McLean's register of interests had been received.

Terry Moore noted his interest as a minor shareholder in Spark and that this would be added to his register of interests.

Hamiora Bowkett noted that while he was not a voting-member of the Board, he had provided a register of interests.

There were no interests declared related to matters on the agenda.

1 Decision and Discussion Items

1.1 Digital Investment Plan: Funding and Financing

Darren Douglas and Lisa Hardie joined the meeting for the discussion of this item.

Mr Douglas introduced the paper noting that the Digital Investment Plan (DIP) is a ten-year strategy aimed at enhancing digital capability to support modernised models of care alongside physical health infrastructure and clinical health technology plans. He noted current challenges such as outdated infrastructure and a heavy reliance on paper-based processes in hospitals and emphasised the need for strategic digital transformation.

The Board discussed the evolving digital landscape in healthcare, noting the need for a clear target operating model and innovative partnerships to improve health outcomes and operational efficiency. S9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

The Board provided the following suggested additions and feedback on the Plan including:

- The need for emphasis on upgrading legacy systems, enhancing cybersecurity, and managing significant capital projects like hospital infrastructure.
- Quantifiable benefits are not yet clear

S9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

- Understanding and communicating clinical and other benefits is critical, alongside establishing milestone timetables to manage budget applications effectively.

S9(2)(ba)(i), S9(2)(j), 9(2)(i) [redacted]

The Board agreed to add an additional recommendation f) to request that feedback provided by the Board be incorporated into the Digital Investment Plan and the updated Plan to be provided to the Board Chair and Chief Executive to approve before submission to the Minister of Health.

Resolution [Moved Andrew Connolly/Seconded Frances Hughes]

That the Board:

a) **noted** that advice was previously provided to the Minister of Health in early June 2025 relating to the structure and immediate priorities for investment in the Digital Investment Plan.

b) **noted** that the Minister of Health agreed that the Digital Investment Plan will have three parts, with a focus on immediate investment prioritisation and longer-term direction setting; and agreed in principle to the ordered priority of investments for the first rolling investment plan (with investments beginning in Horizon One, years 1-2).

c) **noted** that the Infrastructure and Investment Group is exploring undertaking similar work, to a greater level of detail, on alternative funding and financing mechanisms, and there are opportunities to undertake this work as one Health NZ.

d) **noted** the draft Ministerial paper is due to the Minister of Health on 31 July, with a workshop to take place with the Minister on 5 August.

e) **endorsed** the proposed approach and key points for engaging the Minister of Health on the funding and financing pathways in the Digital Investment Plan.

f) **requested** that feedback provided by the Board be incorporated into the Digital Investment Plan and the updated Plan to be provided to the Board Chair and Chief Executive to approve before submission to the Minister of Health.

3 General Business

<u>NZNO Strike</u>

The Chief Executive gave an update on the preparation and concerns surrounding a 24-hour NZNO strike on 30 July. S9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

The Chief Executive noted that communication efforts are underway to inform the public about emergency services availability and patient safety.

The meeting closed at 10.08am