

08 December 2021

Submission on Pae Ora Bill from Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition

Tēnā koutou

The Breast Cancer Aotearoa wishes to submit on a single point in relation to the Pae Ora Bill.

There is a Government-sanctioned independent review process under way to examine the performance of Pharmac. The Pae Ora Bill should not proceed through parliamentary processes towards legislation until this review is complete.

The review is providing the first independent report into Pharmac since it was established more than 25 years ago. The Review Panel was asked to consider how well Pharmac performed against what it was asked to do and whether its performance could be improved. It was also asked to look at timeliness of decision-making, transparency, and equity of outcomes, particularly for Māori, Pacific people, disabled people, and those with rare disorders.

The Review Panel released its Interim Report on 2 December 2021. Significant issues were identified that require remedy. The Panel is undertaking further work to develop recommendations that will support Pharmac to become more effective at delivering equitable outcomes for all New Zealanders. These recommendations are likely to lead to revision of Pharmac's Objectives, Functions and related operations.

Clauses 61 to 67 of the Pae Ora Bill define elements of Pharmac's operations including the Objectives, Functions and other activities relating to these. As drafted, these are 'status quo' directives that should not be enshrined in new legislation.

We request that any legislative process awaits the completion of the review of Pharmac, receipt of final recommendations from the Review Panel and revision of all clauses describing Pharmac's Objectives, Functions and other related operations.

Naku noa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Libby Burgess'.

Nā Elisabeth P. J. Burgess (Libby) MNZM
Chair, Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition

