



## TARANAKI COMMUNITY PHARMACY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OF A TARANAKI COMMUNITY PHARMACY SERVICES STRATEGY

Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) is committed to improving the health of all residents of Taranaki, and acknowledges the crucial role that community pharmacy has in improving health outcomes and reducing health inequities for our population.

Taking a deliberate and strategic approach to how we work with our community pharmacy service providers is an important part of improving the health outcomes of Taranaki residents. To that end, Taranaki DHB wants to put in place a strategy that will ensure that it funds sustainable and high quality community pharmacy services that are targeted to meet the needs of our population.

The development of a Taranaki Community Pharmacy Services Strategy is also key to progressing the implementation of the *Pharmacy Action Plan 2016-2020* published by the Ministry of Health to its fullest, and contributing to the achievement of the outcomes set out in the New Zealand Health Strategy.

As part of developing a strategy, the DHB is embarking on a review of community pharmacy services in the Taranaki region, which will involve (among other things) a stocktake of existing community pharmacy services and a needs assessment of current and future service needs.

It is anticipated that the Taranaki Community Pharmacy Services Strategy will be completed in the next 6-9 months.

### **Interim Procurement Policy**

While this review is underway, Taranaki DHB has established this interim procurement policy that will guide how it contracts for community pharmacy services.

To date, the DHB's general approach has been to contract with any person who requests a community pharmacy services agreement and meets key due diligence requirements (including that they are licensed to operate a pharmacy under the Medicines Act).

From now, and while the review is underway, Taranaki DHB will no longer take such an open approach to contracting for new community pharmacy services. Instead, any potential provider wishing to establish a new premise and enter into a new Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) with the DHB will need to apply to the DHB and provide a business case.

Anyone interested in applying for an ICPSA should contact, [ContractsTeam@tdhb.org.nz](mailto:ContractsTeam@tdhb.org.nz) to obtain copy of the application form and business case requirements.

The DHB will consider each application for a new ICPSA that it receives. Each application will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and the DHB makes no guarantee that it will enter into an ICPSA with any applicant.

The DHB will assess each application that it receives against the interim criteria listed below this list is not exclusive.

The DHB will also undertake the usual due diligence assessment that it performs in respect of any provider that wishes to contract with the DHB. The process is outlined in the following document:

<https://tas.health.nz/assets/Publications/Pharmacy-Documents/Funding-monitoring-and-processes/Pharmacy-Transfers-Guide/CPS011PharmacyTransfersGuide271015V1.pdf>.

The criteria against which applications will be assessed while the interim procurement policy is in place are the extent to which:

- The service supports the vision of Integrated Pharmacy Services in the Community
- The service is required in the geographic location in which it is proposed to be provided, to ensure/support service coverage and access for the Taranaki population
- The service responds to an identified need of the population group(s) to whom the service will be provided
- The applicant can demonstrate that the service will impact on the reduction of health inequities within the relevant geographic location
- The business model and associated funding is sustainable. If the applicant requires additional financial assistance from the DHB this will be taken into account when assessing the application
- Any other matters that the DHB considers to be relevant to its assessment of the application.

The DHB will advise each applicant, in writing, of its decision within 30 days of receipt of the application.

This interim procurement policy and the assessment of applications against the criteria set out above, will remain in place while the review is underway (or as otherwise advised by the DHB).

The DHB anticipates that the interim procurement policy will be replaced by a new procurement policy as part of the implementation of the Community Pharmacy Services Strategy. Decisions about the content of the procurement policy, and to whom the policy will apply (which could include existing community pharmacy service providers), will depend on the outcome of the review.