

National Trends summary

Health systems worldwide, including New Zealand, currently face a number of pressures that are predicted to intensify in the future. Issues in New Zealand include:

- a growing and ageing population, increasing ethnic diversity, and population redistribution across districts
- growth in the incidence and impact of chronic conditions, and consequent greater demand for health services
- the persistence of health inequalities
- worsening workforce shortages
- inconsistencies across District Health Boards (DHBs) in terms of performance, patient access, planning, and the existence of a long-term, system-wide view
- opportunities and challenges arising from the development of new diagnostic and treatment technologies
- unaffordable, exponential increase in health care expenditure
- funding constraints, exacerbated by the current global fiscal crisis.

This report describes the way in which health systems in New Zealand and internationally are responding to these pressures through the redesign of service delivery. It provides a resource to assist planners of health services to identify and replicate successful models in order to meet New Zealand's future health needs.

The New Zealand health and disability system has already begun making some use of new models of care and implementing service configuration changes. Further consideration will be required of how new models of care, service configuration changes and new health interventions can be successfully implemented, with specific reference to local and regional circumstances (such as disease prevalence, demographic profile, and workforce availability). Clinical effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis will be essential parts of the evaluation.

Current trends worldwide include:

- emphasis on home-based delivery of services as an effective way to address workforce constraints and health inequalities, with the assumption that this emphasis will also help address cost pressures;
- better integrated community-based services and the development of integrated family health centres are being progressed to strengthen the primary health care sector to improve patient access, support improved health outcomes, make the best use of the available workforce, make use of multidisciplinary teamwork to co-ordinate care delivery, improve access to specialist diagnostic testing, and to deliver some traditionally based secondary services;
- secondary hospitals are focusing on enhancing core clinically viable services and increasing their reliance on broader partnerships with larger neighbouring hospitals in metropolitan areas, to address workforce and quality pressures.

For more information please refer to full document on following page

