



General Practice Owners Association
of Aotearoa New Zealand

Media Release

21 April 2020

New Zealand's front-line of attack against COVID-19 severely compromised

The Government has withdrawn its support for New Zealand's vital front-line health care workers mid-way through its war against COVID-19 - a move which severely compromises patient care and the sector's ability to protect communities during the current pandemic.



Referring to the Government's decision to withhold previously agreed COVID-19 funding, Dr Tim Malloy (pictured), chair of the newly formed General Practice Owners Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (GenPro) said "I am exceptionally disappointed that the Government has effectively reneged on its previous agreement to support vital General Practice services during the country's Level 4 Lockdown and is giving the message that health care workers who are knowingly, and regularly, putting themselves directly in harms way are no longer valued".

General Practices across the country have made significant advance commitments in order to maintain vital front-line services on the basis of fortnightly funding support previously agreed with District Health Boards (DHBs) and the Ministry of Health. Those same General Practices have now been told such funding support is being withheld.

"In terms of Occupational Health and Safety, there is probably no other group of the New Zealand workforce which is putting themselves more at risk in the battle to protect patients and communities from COVID-19, and yet the Government's decision to pull the rug on their support means many General Practice owners will no longer be able to afford to maintain those services. I fear for the impact that will have and the backward step it means we will take in this country's collective action during this pandemic".

GenPro, whose Vision is *Sustainable, viable and high quality General Practice for all New Zealanders*, has to-date not been directly involved in the funding negotiations with DHBs and the Ministry of Health but, Dr Malloy goes on to say "The situation we find ourselves in is utter stupidity and GenPro will now be raising this at the highest level on behalf of our members who are running General Practice services in some of the most challenged communities across the full length of the country."

ENDS

Further information can be obtained from:

Philip Grant, Interim Chief Executive – philip@genpro.org.nz Telephone 022 131 8393

Note to editors:

Further information is available on GenPro's website at www.genpro.org.nz

The Steering Committee overseeing the initial establishment and growth of GenPro, and already covering General Practices providing care to almost 1 million New Zealanders, has included:

- Dr Tim Malloy, Coast to Coast Healthcare
- Dr Angus Chambers, Riccarton Clinic
- Steffan Crausaz, Tamaki Health
- Dr Tony Edwards, The Doctors Napier
- David Jones, Better Health
- Dr Clinton Newbury, Better Health
- Rachael Newfield, Green Cross Health
- Ash Revell, Green Cross Health
- Dr Murray Tilyard, South Link Health
- Mark Wills, Omni Health

GenPro's Vision

Sustainable, viable and high quality General Practice for all New Zealanders

GenPro's Mission

To promote and advocate for sustainable, responsive and high quality general practice services for the population of New Zealand.

GenPro's Objectives

- a. To promote, protect and improve the collective interests of Members.
- b. To advocate for and support the sustainability and viability of Members businesses and the services they provide in order to ultimately ensure the continuity of locally accessible and high-quality, patient-centric care.
- c. To provide strong, credible and effective national representation for New Zealand's network of General Practice and Urgent Care business owners, including, but not limited to, the country's network of smaller, owner-operated providers.
- d. To improve the health of the population of New Zealand and advocate for high-quality, accessible and equitable patient care.
- e. To support the productivity and efficiency of the New Zealand Health and Disability System.
- f. To promote, protect and support the innovation capability of Members.
- g. To help Members promote and improve the efficiency of their businesses.
- h. To uphold the professional reputation of Members collectively, and the value of the quality branding conferred by membership of the Association.
- i. To provide sector leadership on issues affecting Members by:
 1. Providing effective representation of Association members on and to bodies with influence on General Practice and Urgent Care services or associated professions.
 2. Influencing and promoting legislation, regulations and policy for the betterment of the interests of the Members or for the accomplishment of any of the Association's objectives.
 3. Liaising and co-operating with Government and other bodies and agencies for the accomplishment of any of the Association's objects
 4. To act as agent for the Members (either individually or collectively) in negotiation or consultation with Crown Agents or other funding bodies regarding contractual service arrangements and associated funding.