

Home and Community Health Forum

Due to MO:	17 October 2025	Reference	HNZ00098036
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Mark Powell, Acting Director, Ageing Well		
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Proactive Release:	This title is proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Mark Powell	Acting Director, Ageing Well		x

Attachments

- Appendix 1:** Runsheet and awards script
- Appendix 2:** Speech notes
- Appendix 3:** Q&A
- Appendix 4:** Selected biographies
- Appendix 5:** Home and Community Factsheet

Appendix 2 and 3 have been withheld in full.

About the event

Purpose	You are giving a short speech and presenting Case Study Awards at the annual Home and Community Forum at Te Papa
Date	Thursday 23 October 2025
Time	12.00pm
Venue	Icon Room, Level 2, Te Papa, 55 Cable St, Wellington
Key HCHA attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lisa Foster, Chief Executive, Home and Community Health Association (HCHA)• Murray Penman, HCHA Board Chair• Alison Van Wyk, HCHA Deputy Chair• Wendy Hoskin, HCHA Board Member• Androulla Kotrotsos, HCHA Board Member• Shelley Cunningham, HCHA Board Member• Penny Hanning, HCHA Board Member <p>Approximately 80-90 attendees are expected. Selected HCHA biographies are provided in Appendix 4</p>
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representative	Mark Powell, Acting Director, Ageing Well
Media	No media are expected
Speech notes and Q&A	Speech notes are provided in Appendix 2 and Q&A in Appendix 3 .

Background – Home and Community Health Association

1. The Home and Community Forum is the annual showcase event of the Home and Community Health Association (HCHA).
2. The HCHA was established in 1993 to provide a national voice for the wider home and community health services sector. HCHA represents most of the sector's estimated 52 providers, though not the largest of these, New Zealand Health Group.
3. Their vision is sustainable, equitable, high-quality provision of home and community health services across Aotearoa. Their purpose is Advocacy, Influence, Insights.
4. The HCHA's factsheet in **Appendix 5** presents further information on the home and community sector.

The Home and Community Forum

5. As well as a networking and emerging issues event, the Forum is designed to highlight work to support people to stay well in their homes and communities.
6. This is the first year featuring Case Study Awards. The case studies being showcased will demonstrate cost-effective, preventative impact by reducing the need for GP and hospital visits, and a measurable contribution to achieving the Government's Health Targets.
7. Around 80-90 people are expected to be in attendance. A 'member's only' event, most attendees will be leaders of member and affiliate member organisations, in addition to Forum sponsors.
8. Other event speakers include: Sir Ashley Bloomfield (now CEO of NZ Institute for Public Health & Forensic Science); Professor of Gerontology Matthew Parsons (Waikato University); and Tom Symondson (CEO, Ageing Australia).

Appendix 1: Runsheet and awards script

Main contact: Lisa Foster, HCHA CEO - 021 989 617

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
8:45am	HCHA CE Lisa Foster meets Minister at entrance to Icon room	
8:50am	HCHA Chair Murray Penman introduces Minister and Minister speaks	10 minutes max
9:00am	Lisa Foster facilitates Q&A	10 minutes
9:10am	Lisa Foster thanks Minister then talks about case study awards; video on the finalists/winners then plays	Approx. 10 minutes total
9:20am	Minister is reintroduced to reads out winners and presents awards (winners will each have 2 minutes for acceptance speech).	A total of six awards - four joint winners and two highly commended. HCHA has provided MO with information on these – <i>see awards script below.</i>
9:35pm	Minister departs and Forum continues	

Appendix 4: selected biographies

HCHA Chief Executive Lisa Foster

Lisa started with HCHA as the Chief Executive in January 2024. She has a breadth of experience across Health, Disability, Mental Health, and Community Support Sectors. Lisa was the Chief Executive for Rare Disorders New Zealand and has a background in bio-medical science. Lisa has acted as a Board director of Asia Pacific Alliance of Patient Organisations (APARDO) for three years.



HCHA Chair Murray Penman

Murray is the Head of Health and Community Services at Visionwest Community Trust in Auckland, having previously been the GM for Home Healthcare at Visionwest. Until September 2019 he worked in Disability Support Services in the Ministry of Health and was involved in developing Individualised Funding and other supports which put the disabled person and their whanau in charge of their funding and support options.



HCHA Deputy Chair Alison Van Wyk

Alison is Executive General Manager of ProPharma. She has a background in nursing, with previous roles including Group Chief Operating Officer at Green Cross Health and CEO of Access Community Health. She brings international sales and marketing and supply chain experience to her roles.



Appendix 5: Home and Community Health Association factsheet



50,000+ people cared for each month¹
27.5 million care hours delivered per annum²

Home & Community Health



Home & Community Health Association

The real value of in-home care



- **Reduce hospital costs and wait times:** less avoidable hospital admissions; lower ED wait times
- **Prevent bed blocking:** earlier discharge and lower re-admission
- **Enhanced wellbeing:** boosts mental and physical health; reduces social isolation and loneliness
- **Support family carers**
- **Return to work after/with injury:** faster recovery with home/community support, mobile nursing, physio and occ health

Opportunities



- **Streamline transitions:** Enhance community and hospital connections for quicker, safer discharges
- **Utilise multi-disciplinary teams:** community-based nurses, OTs, and physios in collaboration with primary care
- **Extension of primary care:** enhance active health care delivery in the home e.g. diagnostic tests, health monitoring, utilise tech/AI
- **Maximise navigation role of support workers:** link with social supports, other community-based services

Clinical care and monitoring in-home; reduce pressure on GPs
Effective and cost-efficient solutions in rural areas

Investment for the future - older people



Today:	2040:
900,000 people 65+ ³	1,300,000 people 65+ ⁴
87,000 rely on in-home care ⁵	160,000 will rely on in-home care ⁶

Annual costs comparison	
Aged Residential Care (ARC)	In-home support worker care
\$65,000 per person ⁷	\$7,400 per person ⁸

Note that \$7,400 is an underfunded rate, not the true cost required to maintain a skilled and stable workforce. Adequately funded in-home care is the only way to meet future demand.

Key workforce issues



- **Unjustified pay gap:** NZ Health-paid HCA rates are \$5 more per hour than a Community Support Worker.⁹ Govt contracted providers need funding to close this gap.
- **26,000 support workers¹⁰** delivering care in 2025 with chronic workforce shortages. Facing an unsustainable future.

When will the pay gap be closed and a sustainable future be secured for HCSS?
Providers need certainty to enable robust workforce planning

About HCHA

Representation

- 40+ providers represented including 13 kaupapa Māori providers
- More than 60% are not-for-profit
- The majority rely on government funding to deliver public services

HCHA Purpose and Vision

- The national voice promoting sector excellence, partnership, and sustainability
- Our vision is for sustainable, equitable, high-quality home and community health services for all New Zealanders