

## Event Briefing: Speaking at New Zealand Aged Care Association (NZACA) Conference, 29 October 2025

<b>Due to MO:</b>	23 October 2025	<b>Reference</b>	HNZ00097993
<b>To:</b>	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
<b>From:</b>	Mark Powell, Acting Director, Ageing Well		
<b>Copy to:</b>	Minister Costello, Associate Minister of Health.		
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Priority</b>	Routine
<b>Consulted:</b>	n/a		
<b>Proactive Release:</b>	This title is proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Mark Powell	Acting National Director, Ageing Well	[REDACTED]	x
Debbie Holdsworth	Director Funding, Community and Mental Health, Planning Funding and Outcomes	[REDACTED]	

Attachments	
Appendix 1:	2 September letter from NZACA to Minister Brown and Minister Costello
Appendix 2:	DREP response to 2 September letter
Appendix 3:	16 September letter from NZACA to Minister Costello
Appendix 4:	DREP response to 16 September letter
Appendix 5:	Conference run sheet
Appendix 6:	Draft speech notes
Appendix 7:	Q+A

Appendices 1 - 4 and Appendices 6 - 7 have been withheld in full.

## About the event

<b>Purpose</b>	You are attending and delivering a speech at the Aged Care Association New Zealand Conference.
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 29 October 2025
<b>Time</b>	11.00am - 12.00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Te Pae Convention Centre, Ōtautahi, Christchurch
<b>Expected attendees</b>	Hon Tracey Martin, Chief Executive, Aged Care Association New Zealand Approximately 300 people made up of all levels of staff and leaders across both the residential and in home care sector.
<b>Health New Zealand   Te Whatu Ora representatives</b>	Mark Powell, Acting Director, Ageing Well
<b>Media</b>	N/A

## Background

1. The Aged Care Association of New Zealand (NZACA) represents approximately 95% of the Aged Residential Care (ARC) sector, covering over 40,000 beds. It is the national voice for aged residential care providers and advocates for quality care, sustainable funding, and a strong future for our ageing population.
2. Members provide a range of care services, including rest home, continuing care (also referred to as hospital care), dementia and psychogeriatric care, as well as short-term care such as respite services.
3. In April 2024, Hon Tracey Martin was appointed Chief Executive of NZACA. She was previously a New Zealand First list MP from 2011 to 2020, and from 2017 to 2020 was Minister for Seniors, Minister for Children, Minister of Internal Affairs and Associate Minister of Education.
4. NZACA have advised the conference theme this year is 'Creating Change', meaning: 'all of us working together, playing our part in the bigger picture as we head toward the 2026 election year'. NZACA state they are working towards:
  - a) Quality staff who stay in the sector due to good conditions and fair pay;
  - b) Equitable access to aged care, no matter who you are or where you live;
  - c) Enough aged care beds to meet the projected increase in demand;
  - d) A positive effect on the public health system and country by assisting the government to meet its ED and elective surgery targets.

5. NZACA have noted they are hoping the Minister of Health can see that that the aged residential care sector is a major support partner for the health targets.
6. NZACA have said they would appreciate you discussing with its members your vision on the place of the Aged Care Sector in delivering accessible and timely health services to New Zealanders and how you see the sector assisting you to deliver on your efficiency targets.

### **Recent engagement with NZACA**

7. On 1 May 2025, Minister Costello and you met with the NZACA and Allan Sargeant, CEO and owner of the facility, Ambridge Rose, to discuss opportunities for the aged care sector to support the Government in reaching its key health targets. Specifically, the discussion focused on:
  - a) Minimising bed blocking;
  - b) Supporting seven-day release (hospital discharges)
  - c) Reaching the target reduction in 200,000 hospital beds nights currently occupied by seniors.
8. Minister Costello also engaged with NZACA on:
  - a) 13 February 2025, to meet the NZACA Board to discuss the Ansell Strategic report, Modelling of Sustainable ARC Funding and other matters; and
  - b) 12 August 2025, to discuss issues facing the sector, their current work programme and progress of the A21 process (see paragraphs 29-37 below).

### **Government Ministers' recent correspondence with NZACA**

9. On 2 September NZACA, wrote to Minister Costello and you (See Appendix 1) expressing their concerns regarding the Phase 2 Sapere Report. We responded to this through a direct reply letter (DREP) (attached as Appendix 2) noting that Sapere's independent analysis is one of several inputs informing aged care funding reform, with further validation underway.
10. On 16 September NZACA wrote to Minister Costello (attached as Appendix 3) also expressing their concerns regarding the ARC Resident Projection Model. We responded through a DREP (attached as Appendix 4) noting that the updated model uses more recent data and predicts fewer residents due to slower actual growth in the 85+ population.

### **New Ministerial Aged Care Advisory Group**

11. Minister Costello's office is finalising the announcement of the Ministerial Advisory Group (the Group).
12. The Group will explore the changes needed in the aged care system to ensure older people can live and age well, receiving the right care in the right place at the right time.

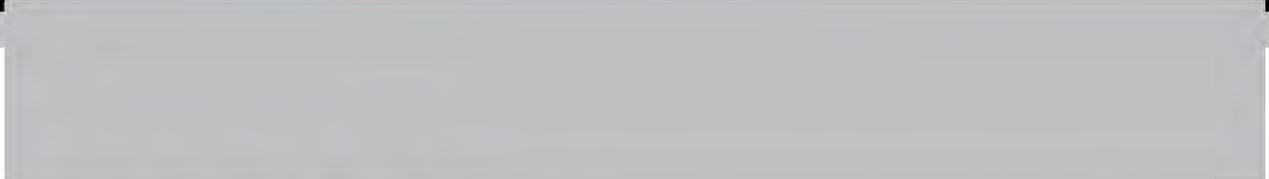
13. Minister Costello has discussed the Group with the NZACA board and CEO of Home and Community Health Association, updated them about the intended Group, and sought nominations from them. She has also sought nominations for the Group from the Opposition.

#### **Aged Care Funding and Service Models Review status update**

14. The Aged Care Service and Funding Model Review (the Review) is currently being undertaken and is a significant part of the Health NZ's response to challenges across the Aged Care Sector.
15. A key goal of the Review is a system which results in a more integrated care model, improved efficiency in the application of resources, and regulatory and funding regimes that are more fit-for-purpose.
16. Since the Review began, Health NZ has already taken important steps to strengthen services.
17. This includes launching a national rollout of the bulk funded restorative home and community support model, progressing work on a fairer funding approach for aged residential care, and investing in services that support hospital discharge and dementia care.

#### **ARC Funding and Service Model Update**

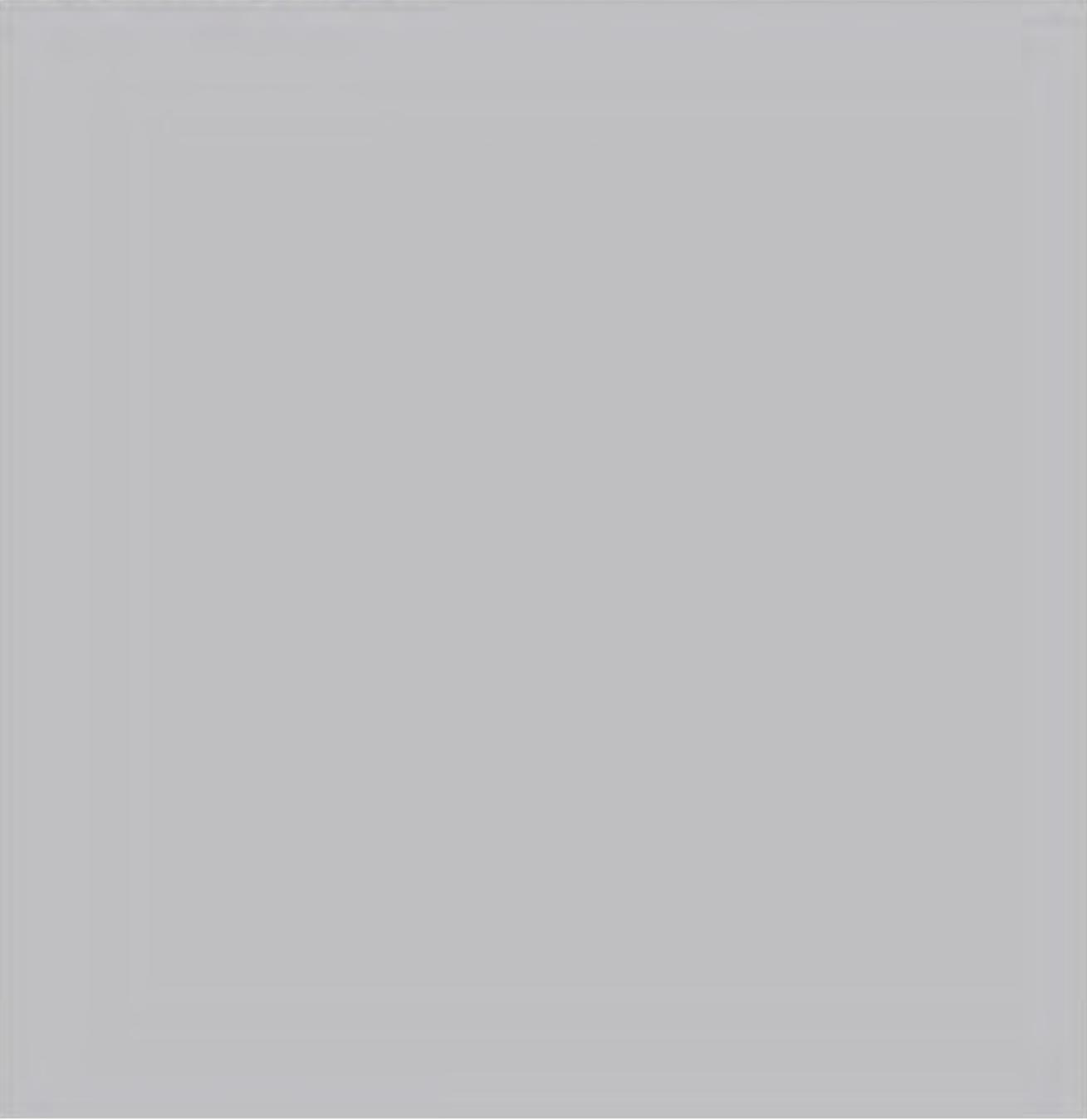


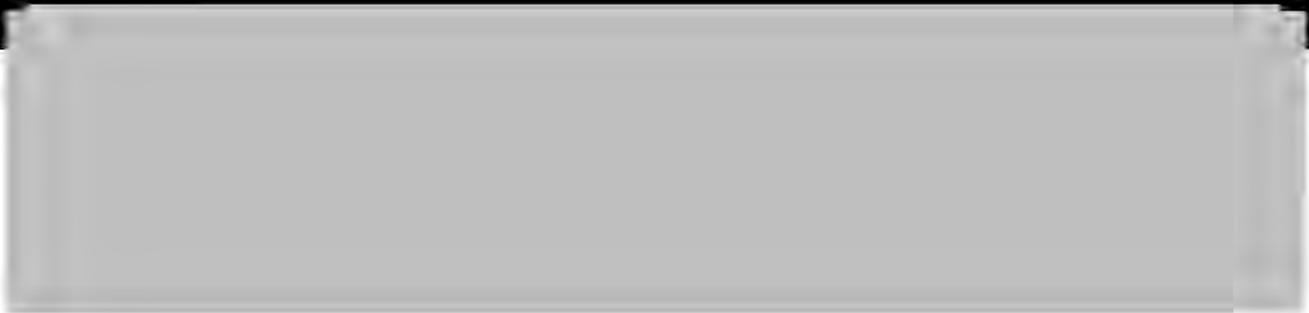


### **ARC Resident Projection Model**

27. Health NZ has recently released an updated version of the ARC Resident Projection Model. This will help aged care providers and planners understand future demand for ARC.
28. The interactive model will use data on actual bed use and population trends to estimate how demand may change over time and across different regions.

### **ARRC A21 Contract Review Update**





## Appendix 1: 2 September letter from NZACA to Minister Brown and Minister Costello

*Attached as a separate document*

## Appendix 2: DREP response to 2 September letter

*Attached as a separate document*

## Appendix 3: 16 September letter from NZACA to Minister Costello

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## Appendix 4: DREP response to 16 September letter

*Attached as a separate document*

## Appendix 5: Runsheet

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
11.10am	Minister arrives at Te Pae Convention Centre main entrance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Greeted by KJ Smith, Events and Campaign Co-ordinator, Aged Care Association</li></ul>	KJ Smith – [REDACTED]
11.15am	Minister speaks Questions from the floor	Jehan Casinader will ask questions that come from the floor via an app
11.45am	Minister departs	-