

6 September 2016

Health of Older People Strategy Consultation
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington

Dear Colleagues

Health of Older People Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Health of Older People Strategy consultation draft.

The Primary Health Alliance is broadly supportive of the intention and direction of travel set out in the draft. However, there are some areas where we believe the strategy does not provide enough detail to ensure that the strategy actually delivers for those it is intended to serve and protect.

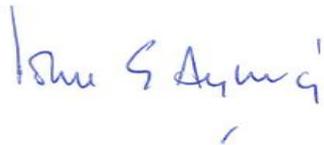
1. We do not believe the strategy sets out sufficient detail on how access to essential services will be provided, not least in rural localities, in order to support the outcomes expected. In this regard, the difficulties in currently accessing services such as home physiotherapy and NASC assessments for example, are well documented and need resolving.
2. We feel that the strategy is light on workforce capacity and capability to deliver against the expectations of the strategy. Further, the draft paper doesn't appear to assign urgency to aligning funding arrangements with revised models of care particularly as it applies to the provision of home support services. We suggest that there are good opportunities if this is recognised as part of primary health.
3. With specific reference to primary care, we believe the strategy does not recognise or acknowledge the significant impact a growing ageing population has, and will increasingly have, across the primary care sector where such demand is predominantly experienced and increasingly managed. New ways of organising general practice and primary health care are currently being undertaken and it would seem useful for older peoples health care to be an integral part of that with respect access to home support and residential care services

We acknowledge and welcome the significant role that primary care has to play in supporting our growing number of older people into the future but must stress that unless that role and responsibility is adequately funded and supported the Strategy will fail to deliver on its expectations.

As usual, we would be delighted to offer the expertise of the Primary Health Alliance and our members to support you in further refining the draft strategy and moving to develop additional fit-for-purpose policy for the sector.

Once again, please accept our thanks for the opportunity to comment and do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further assistance.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ayling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark below the name.

John Ayling
Chairman