



KEEPING COMMUNITIES HEALTHY

National is investing strongly in primary care, screening, early intervention and disease prevention to keep New Zealanders healthy.

And we are supporting people with long-term conditions to get the support and independence they need to lead fulfilling lives. This is part of our commitment to deliver better, sooner, more convenient healthcare for New Zealand families.

We've increased funding every year for GP visits and home support services.

We're introducing free GP visits and prescriptions for children aged under 13, so cost isn't a barrier to children getting the medical assistance they need. As a result, parents will be more likely to take their child to the doctor for treatment before their condition becomes serious.

We're ensuring more young children are immunised, expanding rheumatic fever prevention programmes, and establishing a new evidence-based, anti-obesity programme – Healthy Families NZ.

We're expanding screening and care for people with diabetes and other long term conditions. The sooner clinicians can detect, treat or prevent these conditions, the better they can reduce the significant burden these conditions put on patients and the health service.

We have introduced new disability models of support, which are seeing more people access individualised funding and personal budgets.

National is also focused on better integrating primary care with other parts of the health service, to provide improved management of long-term conditions and better care for patients.

We are using new technology to improve people's access to information and provide better, more joined-up services for patients.



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Free GP visits and prescriptions for children under 13.
- Better care for people with long-term conditions.
- Reducing the incidence of rheumatic fever.
- Rolling out Healthy Families NZ.
- Better use of information technology.

NATIONAL IS...

INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

- ✓ In tight financial times, National has protected and grown our health service with average increases in health investment of around \$500 million a year.
- ✓ Increased funding for GP visits by \$150 million.
- ✓ Increased total funding for disability services by over \$200 million, with another \$112 million over the next four years announced in this year's budget

IMPROVING SCREENING AND DISEASE PREVENTION

- ✓ Set a national health target, and invested \$15 million, to ensure that 90 per cent of the eligible population are screened for heart disease and diabetes risk, to reduce the incidence of these chronic diseases.
- ✓ Running a four-year bowel screening pilot, at a cost of \$24 million, to help identify bowel cancer at an early stage.
- ✓ Completed a \$10 million digital upgrade of mammography screening.
- ✓ Setting up Healthy Families NZ – a new, locally-driven anti-obesity programme in ten communities across New Zealand, to address some of the underlying causes of poor health including obesity and unhealthy eating.

SUPPORTING NEW, COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

- ✓ Supported the development of over 30 integrated family health centres, which are health "one stop shops", including GPs, nurses, pharmacists, midwives, dentists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, and visiting medical specialists under one roof.

- ✓ Providing more funding for pharmacists to offer a broader range of services, like managing patients with long-term conditions such as diabetes.
- ✓ Introducing new disability models of support, which is seeing more people access personal budgets, where they can choose how to spend their funding to best suit them.

TACKLING SMOKING

- ✓ Increased tobacco tax to discourage smoking, which is the leading cause of disease and early deaths in New Zealand.
- ✓ Set a national health target to ensure that almost all smokers who are seen by a health practitioner are offered brief advice and support to quit smoking.

INVESTING IN IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- ✓ Children under six can see a GP for free, any time of the day or night, after National introduced free after-hours GP visits.
- ✓ Investing \$65 million to better detect and treat rheumatic fever through throat swabbing in at risk communities, providing improved access to primary care, improved housing, and improving community awareness.
- ✓ Set a national health target to ensure that 95 per cent of eight-month-olds are fully immunised by the end of 2014.
- ✓ Fully funded PlunketLine to operate 24 hours a day.
- ✓ Ensured that children with profound hearing loss can receive two funded cochlear implants rather than just one.

OUR RESULTS SO FAR

BETTER RESULTS IN CHILD HEALTH

- 98 per cent of children under six can now see a GP any time of day or night, and get their prescriptions for free.
- 5,200 children most at risk of developing rheumatic fever have had their sore throat checked at a free drop-in clinic.
- Immunisation rates are increasing to record levels – 92 per cent of eight-month-old babies are now fully immunised.

**A RECORD
92% OF
8-MONTH-OLDS
FULLY IMMUNISED**

BETTER COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

- Over a million New Zealanders (84 per cent of the eligible population) have had a heart and diabetes risk assessment completed over the last five years.
- Thousands more patients are getting faster access to x-rays, ultrasounds, and CT and MRI scans without having to see a hospital specialist first.
- Since the Government funded 12 months of Herceptin in 2008, 1095 women have received approval for 12 months treatment – the international standard.

REDUCED SMOKING RATES

- Over 400,000 people have been offered advice and support to quit smoking by hospitals and GPs in the last year.
- Only 15 per cent of people now smoke – the lowest smoking rate ever recorded in New Zealand and ahead of almost every other country in the world.

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...



1. PROVIDE FREE GP VISITS AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR UNDER CHILDREN UNDER 13

→ **Extend free GP visits and provide free prescriptions to all children under 13**

From July 2015, National will extend free doctors' visits and prescriptions for children aged under six to children aged under 13.

Parents shouldn't be put off getting medical assistance for their children because of the cost, and we are making sure of that.

This is an important preventative health measure, as parents will be more likely to take their child to the doctor for treatment before their condition becomes severe. It will also help reduce the number of children presenting at our busy hospital emergency departments with an illness that a GP could have treated.

National will invest \$90 million over three years to fund these changes. More than 400,000 primary school-aged children and their families are expected to benefit from this investment.

2. CONTINUE TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

National will:

- Continue to increase the numbers of New Zealanders having a heart and diabetes check.
- Continue to invest in nutrition and activity programmes for those at risk of diabetes.
- Increase the number of specialist diabetes nurses.
- Continue to expand the role of community pharmacists in managing long term conditions.
- Increase the number of renal transplants performed.
- Give more people with disabilities access to personal budgets and advance the priority areas in the Disability Action Plan 2014-2018.

3. EXPAND THE RHEUMATIC FEVER PREVENTION PROGRAMME

- Expand free drop-in sore-throat clinics to target a further 90,000 children and young people who are at risk of getting rheumatic fever.

The clinics are being rolled out in the Northland, Waikato, Lakes, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay and Hutt Valley regions.

Over 200,000 children and young people in high-risk areas will have access to prompt care and treatment for sore throats.

Five million dollars is being invested to raise awareness of the rheumatic fever, including television and radio campaigns.

4. ROLL OUT HEALTHY FAMILIES NZ

Under the Healthy Families NZ programme, a local, community-based provider will arrange health promotion, and work with schools, early childhood education centres, workplaces and sport clubs to encourage and support people to make healthy lifestyle choices.

These lifestyle choices include making good food choices, being physically active and sustaining a healthy weight.

Providers will work in communities that are home to around 900,000 New Zealanders in total. Healthy Families NZ initiative has been given funding of \$40 million, announced in the 2014 Budget.

5. INVEST IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR PATIENTS

- Continue to encourage and support the use of information technology to improve people's access to information and provide better, more joined-up services for patients.

This includes:

- Allowing people to securely access information from their GP practice, like seeing laboratory test results, ordering repeat prescriptions and sending messages directly to their GP, all from home – our goal is to have 90 per cent of people able to do this online by the end of 2015/16.
- Giving pregnant women access to shared information entered by their lead maternity carer, GP, laboratory and maternity facilities.
- Completing the roll-out of the NZ ePrescription Service, to reduce prescription errors that result from manual processing. By the end of this year most GP practices and community pharmacies should be using this service, which currently processes around 240,000 prescriptions a month.
- Using tele-health to deliver health services to people in remote places.

DON'T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour would:

- ✘ Deliver more bureaucracy, committees, strategies and working groups at the expense of front line health services.