



Media Release

Tuesday 19 May 2020

A special day to consider the future sustainability of Family Doctor services

As the world is celebrating Family Doctor Day, the Association which represents General Practice owners in New Zealand, GenPro, is calling for a collaborative debate about the future sustainability of family doctor services to ensure they are able to continue serving future generations of New Zealanders.



Today is World Family Doctor Day. A day when Family Doctors worldwide are celebrated for their hard work, professionalism and commitment to their local communities. According to Dr Angus Chambers (pictured), Christchurch GP and interim deputy chair of GenPro, it is also a day to reflect on New Zealand's successful coronavirus response and start a meaningful dialogue to address the sustainability and viability challenges which General Practice owners have increasingly faced over recent years, "The response of New Zealand's General Practices during the COVID-19 pandemic has simply been outstanding. It has been a major factor in keeping our communities predominantly safe from this life threatening virus and it has been possibly the single main reason why our hospitals have not faced the avalanche of seriously ill and dying patients seen in many other countries.

"But, that has come at a cost to hundreds of privately run and owner-operated General Practices in New Zealand that were already struggling to maintain services following years of diminishing funding and increasing demands from a health system that is increasingly focused on transferring responsibility for services from hospitals to local community-based General Practice teams" Dr Chambers said.

In line with its Vision of Sustainable, viable and high quality General Practice for all New Zealanders, GenPro is hoping for a collaborative approach with the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and sector partners to develop a sustainable financial framework for the future of General Practice using co-design principles to ensure World Family Doctor Day can continue to celebrate the significant contribution of General Practices as part of their local communities for years to come.

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

Membership applications are now being invited in readiness for the election of the Association's inaugural governance Board which will take place between July and September 2020.

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.