

Auckland Metro Allied Health Professions Deep Dive

Pānui #4 - April 2022

We're back on track!

We hope you have all navigated your way through the peak of the Omicron outbreak and that you, your friends and whānau have stayed as healthy and safe as possible. These have been, and will most likely continue to be, challenging times for us all.

You might be aware that in early March (2022) we paused the Auckland Metro Allied Health Professions Deep Dive project due to the significant pressure being felt by staff during the Omicron surge. With the peak now passed, we are keen that we restart the mahi on this important piece of work. In fact, as the region develops a plan to recover planned care delayed through the surge, the contribution that allied health professionals (AHPs) can make to this recovery, alongside allied health services in Emergency Departments and strong community / home-based rehabilitation services, has never been more important.

So what's new?

At the last Steering Group meeting (February), the group discussed some initial high-level data analysis, and agreed a working definition for advanced clinical practice and the four pillars/areas of practice (aligned to the DHB Career Frameworks and GEPP documents where these exist). This working definition will be used for the upcoming focus group conversations.

Next steps

1. Analysis of data will continue, along with literature review activity and analysis.
2. A series of face to face focus / zoom groups are being rescheduled for May/June for the following allied health staff groups:
 1. In-scope clinicians who are currently in a recognised advanced practice allied health role *or* recognised by the DHB as working at that level
 2. Pelvic health physiotherapists
 3. Advanced practice musculoskeletal physiotherapists
 4. Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians who are in, or preparing for, advanced practice roles
 5. Pharmacy Education and Training Leads to explore development pathways to advanced practice roles
 6. Adult community rehabilitation allied health staff
3. Targeted interviews will occur for specific services e.g., orthopaedics, pelvic health/colorectal, emergency department to explore opportunities and service-level readiness for advanced practice roles.

What this means for you

If you're in one of the groups above, then look out for an invite – we're looking forward to hearing from you.

Project recap...

This project focusses on the value and benefits that allied health professionals (AHPs) can bring to the healthcare system across community, acute and rehabilitation settings.

AHPs play an incredibly important role in our organisation – these specialist roles help our patients recover well and optimise wellbeing.

There are opportunities to increase access to specific services (right place, right time and service delivered by the right person) by optimising the roles of AHPs, and the models of care delivered. We have five workstreams underway with a focus on listening to our people and determining what's important for the future. Some of you will now have been involved in interviews, focus groups or surveys.

With the short delay due to Omicron, the project now aims to wrap up a little later, in August 2022.

Want to know more?

Read the last Pānui (search *Allied Health* on the ADHB website), contact a local Steering Group member or email Janice Mueller (Project Lead) at janice@waipiata.com