
28 January 2025

Dear David Seymour: Our health system is sacrosanct

On Friday, in Associate Minister of Health David Seymour's State of the Nation speech, he floated the idea of giving New Zealanders the option of opting out of the public health system.

General Practitioners Aotearoa (GPA) encourages this Government to continue to support the people of Aotearoa New Zealand so nobody is left without access to healthcare.

Our healthcare system is already strained and needs more, not less, financial support to deliver equitable healthcare for all.

"It should not be controversial to say that New Zealanders deserve to be healthy, nomatter their personal wealth," says GPA chair Dr Buzz Burrell.

"We've all seen the healthcare nightmare situation in the USA, how a system run by private insurance leads to perverse outcomes. Kiwis don't want that," he says.

"David Seymour is very interested in efficiency, so I would encourage him to read up on the decades of international research and experience showing that investing in public healthcare is good for the people, it's good for the country, and it's good for the economy."

ENDS

Contact for comment

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About General Practitioners Aotearoa

General Practitioners Aotearoa (GPA) is the only independent organisation exclusively representing the voices of doctors working in general practice. We represent GPs who are clinic owners, employees, contractors and trainees. We are member-funded and receive no government money. GPA formed after the demise of the New Zealand Medical Association to independently advocate for GPs. gpaotearoa.co.nz