# Letter of reply to General Practitioners of Aotearoa

Hūhana Lyndon, Candidate in Tai Tokerau

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us, we recognize the increasing concern arising in the Primary Care sector about the need for long term support. This is a concern that has been echoed throughout the entire health sector as the Government has routinely left our infrastructure underfunded, understaffed, and with no real future considerations of how to support it.

The Green Party would like to take this opportunity to affirm our strong commitment to the sector, including to our general practitioners, and to ensuring that you receive the support that you need.

As we discussed, the Green Party's health plan will include an increase in health sector funding by 3 billion dollars every year, totalling $30b over four years as a part of our fully costed fiscal plan.

The funding crisis in primary care has flow on effects throughout the health sector, including recruitment and retention of work force, patient access, and people with unmet needs showing up in Emergency Departments instead. I think it's true to say that only the Green Party has made the funding commitment that will be necessary to address these issues.

Underfunding of general practice was clearly set out in the 2024 Sapere report. In the intervening years Government has applied only bandaid measures. The Green Party would fully implement the recommendations of this report and update it for 2027 and beyond.

It's also clear that a long-term health workforce plan is required, including for primary care health professionals. We are acutely aware that a number of such plans have previously been developed, but have languished, either partly implemented or not implemented at all. Where these plans are still fit for purpose, our initial focus will be on implementing these.

Other concerns for us include GP-owned practices being increasingly bought out by large overseas corporations. It's not clear yet what effect this is having. We know the Public Health Advisory Committee has already provided advice to the Minister on this topic, but he has not made it available to the public. At a minimum we want to create an environment where GPs are not forced to sell. We also need to tackle the problem of the unenrolled population, perhaps

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through default providers, and look forward to being able to work through these and other issues with you.

General Practitioners deserve fair pay, fair work conditions, and fair opportunities to continue providing necessary support to the people of New Zealand. We will continue to work with you and welcome further communication to ensure your voices are heard. Please feel free to share this letter with your members.

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