

DHA Letter to the Incoming Minister of Health

Hon Simeon Brown

17 MARCH 2025



DHA

Digital Health Association

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Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
By email to: s.brown@ministers.govt.nz

17 March 2025

Dear Minister Brown,

Re: Briefing to the Incoming Minister – Digital Health Priorities

Please find enclosed the Digital Health Association’s (DHA) Briefing to the Incoming Minister (BIM), outlining our vision for a digitally enabled health system that delivers timely, high-quality, and accessible care for all New Zealanders.

We acknowledge the decisive steps you have taken in setting clear health sector targets and providing direction to Health New Zealand since assuming office. Your recognition of the critical role of digital infrastructure in building a modern, sustainable health system aligns strongly with our members’ thinking and is central to our recommendations. We also welcome your fifth priority—investing in health infrastructure, both physical and digital, so that we are building for the future—as this aligns with our call for long-term, strategic investment to ensure a resilient, future-proofed health system that meets the evolving needs of all New Zealanders.

Our briefing highlights five key recommendations to advance digital health and ensure system efficiency, resilience, and innovation:

- 1. Prioritise investment in core digital health infrastructure by aligning with global best practices and increasing Vote Health’s digital allocation to at least 5% to modernise legacy systems and support AI, automation, and predictive analytics.**
2. Establish a Health Infrastructure Entity that integrates digital and physical assets to provide central oversight, prevent fragmentation, and ensure future-proofed investments.
3. Modernise procurement practices to enable innovation, agility, and competition by shifting to an outcome-driven approach that engages industry early and supports scalable digital health solutions.
4. Leverage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to drive cost-effective, globally aligned digital health advancements by tapping into private sector innovation, expertise, and resources.
- 5. Restore and expand critical digital health programmes to improve interoperability, clinical workflows, and patient safety while reducing administrative burdens and inefficiencies.**

Strengthening government-industry collaboration

Over the years, the DHA and its members have built a strong and productive partnership with the Data and Digital teams at Health New Zealand. This collaboration has fostered sector-wide alignment, innovation, and investment. However, despite these collective efforts, policy settings have often hindered progress, creating barriers to achieving scale, efficiency, and digital maturity. A structured and enduring partnership between industry and government is essential to embedding digital health as a core enabler of a modern, resilient, and equitable health system.

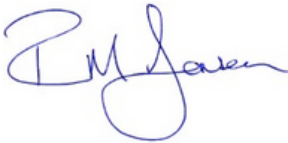
Commitment to engagement

This briefing has been informed by extensive consultation with our members, ensuring that our recommendations reflect the needs and priorities of the wider digital health sector. While this process led to a slight delay in delivery, it has strengthened our proposals and enabled us to present a comprehensive vision for a world-class health system underpinned by strategic digital investment.

We look forward to discussing these recommendations in more detail with you soon. The DHA and its members remain committed to working in partnership with you to realise this vision and ensure New Zealand's health system meets the needs of all New Zealanders.

Please find a copy of our Briefing attached along with this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ryl Jensen | CEO
Digital Health Association