



TERMS OF REFERENCE

EQUITY IN HOSPITALS COMMITTEE

1. Establishment

The Committee is established by the board (the Board) of Northland District Health Board (NDHB) under section 36 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 (the Act). The Board may amend the terms of reference for the Committee from time to time.

2. Functions of Committee

The functions of the Equity in Hospitals Committee are to :

- (a) Monitor the operational performance of the hospitals and related services of Northland DHB
- (b) Assess strategic issues relating to the equitable provision of hospital and related services by or through Northland DHB. Give the Board advice and recommendations on that monitoring and that assessment

3. Equity Statement

Northland DHB is committed to ensuring equity of access, experience and outcomes for those populations who need our support the most. This is particularly so for Māori in Northland to recognise their status as Tangata Whenua. Our position on this matter aligns with our commitment to eliminate inequities and should be read in conjunction with our overall approach to achieving optimal health and wellbeing for all Northlanders.

Northland DHB also acknowledge the Ministry of Health definition of equity:

In Aotearoa New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.

4. Membership

- Membership of the Committee shall be determined by the Board
- Appointment of members must comply with the requirements set out in Clause 6 Schedule 4 of the Act
- The Board will appoint the Chair of the Committee

5. Responsibilities

To carry out its functions, the Committee will monitor and advise the Board on the:

- (a) Equitable provision of hospital and related services by or through NDHB including key operational and clinical quality issues

- (b) Overall activity levels and performance of hospital and related services when assessed against Northland DHB's annual plan and relevant legislation
- (c) Management by the hospital and related services of the delivery of Northland DHB's health services delivery programme and other hospital facilities projects
- (d) Provision of hospital and related services through other entities in which Northland DHB has an ownership or other interest

6. Relationship with Board and Management

- (a) The Committee is established by and accountable to the Board. The Committee's role is advisory only, and unless specifically delegated by the Board from time to time in accordance with clause 39(4) of Schedule 3 of the Act, no decision-making powers are delegated to the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall receive all material and information for its review or consideration through the Chief Executive Officer.
- (c) The Committee shall provide advice and make recommendations to the Board only, and is not authorised to give any directions or issue any instructions to NDHB officers or employees unless specifically requested in writing by the Board.
- (d) The Committee is to be cognisant of the work being undertaken by other committees to ensure a cohesive approach to health and disability planning and delivery.

7. Meeting Procedure

- (a) The Committee will meet regularly as determined by the Board. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with:
 - i) The requirements of the Act
 - ii) The Board's Standing Orders
- (b) The Committee may invite any Northland DHB officers and employees to attend as required.

Approved October 2020