

TARGET

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Shorter stays in emergency departments

95% of patients to be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

LEAD AGENCIES

Ministry of Health, Director-General of Health, Audrey Sonerson

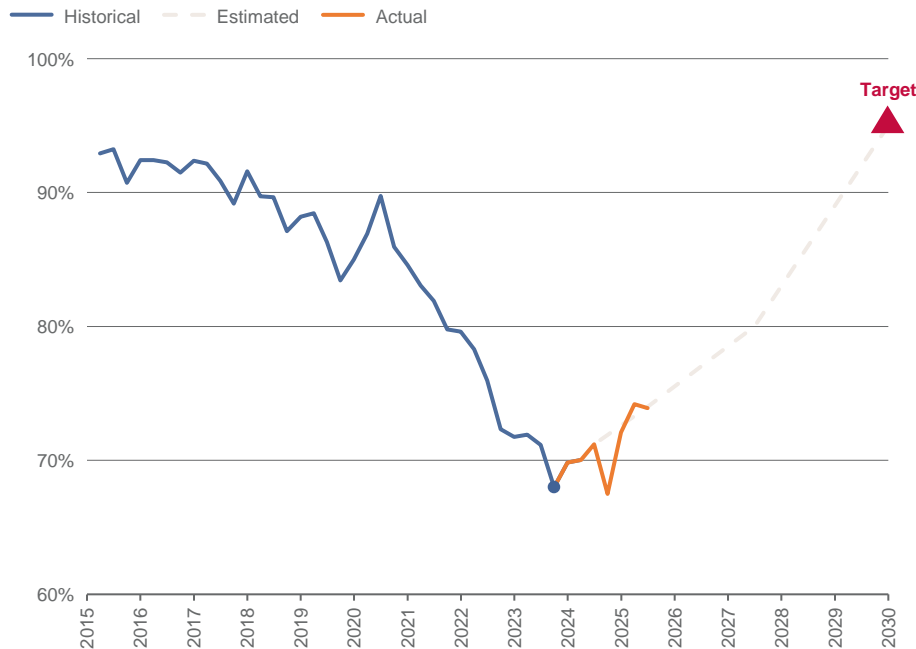
Health New Zealand, Chief Executive, Dr Dale Bramley

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2025

Target	Baseline (September 2023)	Current (June 2025)	Status
95%	68.0%	73.9%	Feasible

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Proportion of patients to be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours



TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is committed to providing timely, high-quality healthcare for all New Zealanders. There has been a decline in quarterly results and improved results compared with the same quarter in the prior year.

Patient demand is increasing. In the quarter ending June 2025, there were 8,400 more patients presenting to emergency departments compared with the same quarter in the prior year. Despite the increased demand, 15,300 more patients were admitted, discharged or transferred in under six hours compared with the same quarter in the prior year.

The Minister of Health is focused on driving action to ensure that all New Zealanders have access to timely high-quality healthcare. Improvements across the whole system of care are needed to reduce the unacceptable wait times at emergency departments.

The Minister of Health has announced further actions for making immediate improvements to the delivery of public health services. This includes:

- A \$20 million boost to Emergency Departments, increasing frontline staffing across hospitals nationwide over the next nine months.
- Opening of the expanded Nelson Hospital's emergency department with treatment spaces increasing from 23 to 29, allowing patients to be seen more quickly, and staff will have a safer, better-equipped environment to work in.
- The Government's fast-tracked hospital wards programme will deliver 140 new beds in the second half of 2026 across Middlemore, Waikato, Wellington, Nelson, and Hawke's Bay hospitals.
- \$24 million over four years (Budget 2025) to increase Aged Residential Care capacity and ease hospital discharge delays.
- \$164 million over four years (Budget 2025) for new and improved urgent and after-hours healthcare.
- The new 24/7 digital health service, to provide all New Zealanders with access to video consultations with New Zealand-registered clinicians, has delivered 38,391 consultations to 32,737 people across New Zealand from its launch in May to 19 October 2025.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Health agencies will report on progress each quarter. National and regional results will be published so New Zealanders will be able to see how their local hospital is performing.

Performance information about the health system is available at the Health New Zealand and Ministry of Health websites www.tewhatauora.govt.nz and www.health.govt.nz

For more information on the Government Targets go to www.dpmc.govt.nz

* Where data is sourced from National Collections, previous results may differ depending on the date of extraction as data is revised and updated live. Due to a new patient management system in Auckland District, results published may show slight variations in future reports.