

Shorter wait times for elective treatment

95% of people wait less than four months for elective treatment.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

LEAD AGENCIES

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

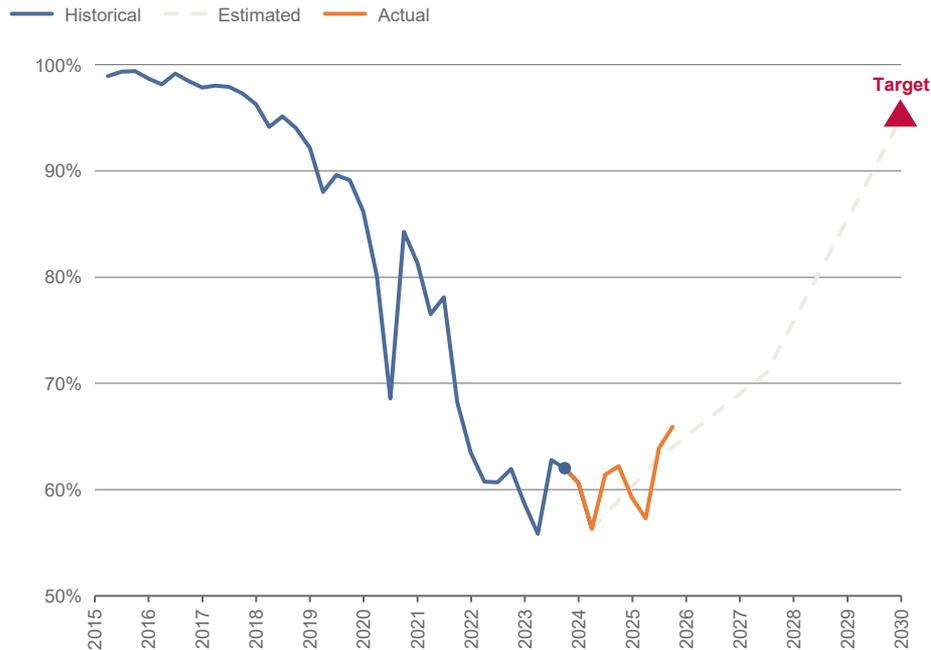
Health New Zealand, Chief Executive,
Dr Dale Bramley

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2025

Target	Baseline (September 2023)	Current (September 2025)	Status
95%	62.0%	65.9%	■ Feasible

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Percent of patients waiting less than four months for elective treatment



TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is committed to providing timely access to quality healthcare for all New Zealanders. The quarter to 30 September 2025 has seen the best performance for elective treatment since September 2021. Despite service delivery being impacted by industrial action this quarter, results have improved compared to the previous quarter, and 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. This includes lifting the volume of surgeries to reduce the elective surgery backlog.

Initiatives to help improve results for this target include:

- Health NZ continues to partner with the private sector to deliver the Electives Boost through 2025/26 – this includes an additional 21,000 hips, knees, cataracts and other procedures to be provided.
- The Government has increased the use of private capacity, with 18% of elective treatments for the 2025/26 year planned to be delivered by private providers.
- Improving internal hospital theatre productivity - national performance benchmarks for these metrics became operational in September 2025 and are monitored on a weekly basis.
- A focus on improving operational processes – standardised waitlist management guidance, booking patients in the right order by clinical priority and time waiting.
- A focus on reducing long-waiting patients - this includes individual case-level plans for patients waiting >500 days as Health NZ works to further reduce those waiting the longest. No patients are currently waiting >700 days without a confirmed treatment plan.

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.tewhātuora.govt.nz and www.health.govt.nz

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