

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

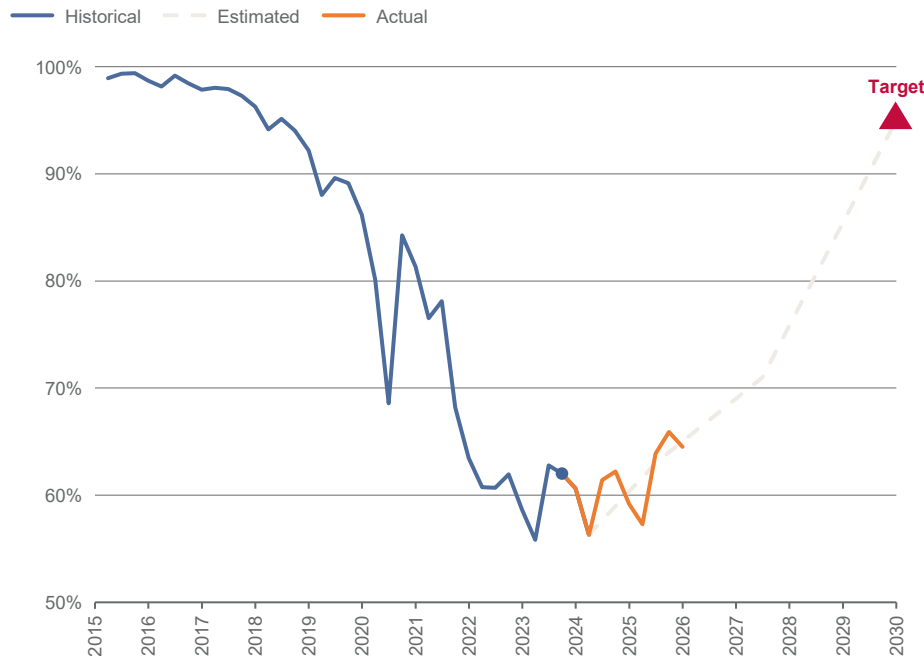
Health New Zealand, Chief Executive,
Dr Dale Bramley

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2026

Target	Baseline (September 2023)	Current (December 2025)	Status
95%	62.0%	64.5%	■ 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. Current performance (64.5%) is a 5.3 percentage point improvement compared with the same quarter in the prior year (59.2%), and a 1.4 percentage point decline compared with the previous quarter (65.9%), in line with seasonal patterns. 51,513 people were treated from the elective waitlist, up from 46,841 in 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 New Zealand continues to partner with the private sector to deliver the Elective Boost through to June 2026. This includes an additional 21,000 hip, knee, cataract and other procedures to be provided.
- A focus on long waiting patients (including those that will be waiting > four months by the time they receive surgery).
- Expanded eye care services for the Hutt Valley and Porirua are in place to deliver 20 to 25 cataract surgery sessions each month, freeing up theatre capacity at Kenepuru and Wellington Hospitals for more complex eye procedures.
- Improving internal hospital theatre productivity – there has been a notable reduction in late starts and early finishes in elective theatres in February. Theatre utilisation is also improving and close to meeting 2025/26 milestones.

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