



22 October 2025

Elsbeth Baker-Wevers

Dear Elspeth

ADHD Inquiry Petition

Thank you for your emails of 16 and 26 September 2025 regarding your petition to parliament for an inquiry into systemic harm to people with ADHD. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

While our understanding of ADHD has improved significantly and more people are receiving treatment, improvements to the health system are needed to better support people with ADHD. I am committed to improving support for people with ADHD and the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is working collaboratively with other agencies including Pharmac, Health New Zealand, professional associations, and groups representing people with lived experience of ADHD.

The second ADHD Parliamentary Hui was held on 2 May 2024, bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders, including people with lived experience, to develop and agree on a set of actions to improve access to care for people with ADHD. The Ministry has been working to make progress on the agreed actions from the hui.

From February 2026, general practitioners (GPs) and nurse practitioners will be able to start stimulant treatment for adults with ADHD, following decisions by Medsafe and Pharmac. The decision responded to years of advocacy by many people with lived experience and other advocates to improve access to ADHD medicine treatment. Over time, this change will improve access to medical treatment for adults with ADHD. You can read my announcement about this here: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/changes-prescribing-adhd-medications.

The Ministry has published the New Zealand Clinical Principles Framework for ADHD which was developed in partnership with a Clinical Reference Group, including people with lived experience of ADHD. The Framework emphasises the importance of both medicines and non-pharmacological treatments for ADHD.

Thank you for the perspectives shared in your emails and petition about how the system could be improved further for people with ADHD. I have passed your correspondence on to officials at the Ministry to consider as they continue to work on improving the health system to better support people with ADHD.

Thank you again for writing and I wish you well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Doocey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Matt Doocey
Associate Minister of Health