

HiNZ Board Chair Report 2022/23

This past year has been a time of significant change and evolution for HiNZ and the New Zealand health sector. We are going through a transformation of our public health sector that will impact on how health care is provided in New Zealand for generations to come. Digital health is firmly embedded into our health system as a key enabler.

I am thankful to our digital health community for embracing the opportunity to gather in person at Digital Health Week in Rotorua. After two years of postponing our annual conference, we welcomed the opportunity to learn and network. Our conference sold out in record time, and it was an incredible week for us to gather together. For the first time we started the conference with a powhiri, signalling our commitment as an organisation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I am thankful to all of you who attended and our supportive sponsors for making the conference our most successful yet. Planning for this year's conference in Hamilton is already underway. It will be HiNZ's 21st conference, and I am looking forward to the birthday celebrations.

The success of Digital Health Week was prefaced with the Digital Health Leadership Summit in Wellington. It was wonderful to see so many new leaders emerging in digital health across New Zealand, sharing challenges, generating ideas and learning about innovative solutions.

We welcomed nine new Fellows to HiNZ this year. Recognising nine health informatics leaders who demonstrate "significant digital and data achievement and contributions, leadership and service for the health and disability sector of Aotearoa New Zealand".

I am deeply appreciative of our General Manager, Kylie Williams, who stepped in as Acting CEO while we undertook a recruitment process following Kim Mundell's resignation. Kylie worked incredibly hard to lead HiNZ and two major events, alongside supporting our team through a time of change and uncertainty. Kylie has recently been promoted to Chief Operating Officer in recognition of her expanded role.

I am delighted to have Tim Corbett starting with HiNZ as the new CEO at the beginning of 2023. Tim is bringing new energy, leadership, collaboration and ideas for HiNZ. He has started work with the Board and the HiNZ team to set a new strategy and roadmap, as we forge a path for the future of HiNZ. We will also undergo a rebrand of HiNZ this year that will be reflective of our new strategic direction.

Our board has also undergone some changes, with three long-standing board members stepping down. Our special thanks to John Ashley for his role as our first Deputy Chair, to Kevin Ross for his long service to HiNZ and for establishing and leading our Finance Sub-Committee, and to Alex Kemp for leading the way with equity. Deb Boyd has been appointed Deputy Chair and will lead our Finance subcommittee. We have welcomed Megan Milmine, Rosie Dobson and Sally Britnell onto the board after our election process in late 2022.

We are seeking to improve diversity and inclusion within the HiNZ Board and are establishing two Board Intern roles. These are intended to support people to develop governance skills and to extend their knowledge about digital health. We will announce our new Board Intern Roles in the coming weeks.

We have an amazing team at HiNZ, working hard to support our community through media and events. I am sincerely grateful to Brit Owens, Rose Harding, Rebecca McBeth, and Kylie Williams for all their work and commitment to HiNZ and digital health. I am looking forward to what the rest of 2023 will bring for HiNZ; I am optimistic that HiNZ will continue to thrive and grow, supporting our digital health community to be bold, collaborate, innovate, challenge, and learn.

Karen Blake
HiNZ Board Chair