

15 September 2020

Dr Jeff Lowe
Chair, GPNZ
jeff.lowe@kmc.co.nz

Dr Jo Scott Jones
Chair, PHO Clinical Leaders Group
drjo@pinnacle.health.nz

Tēnā kōrua Drs,

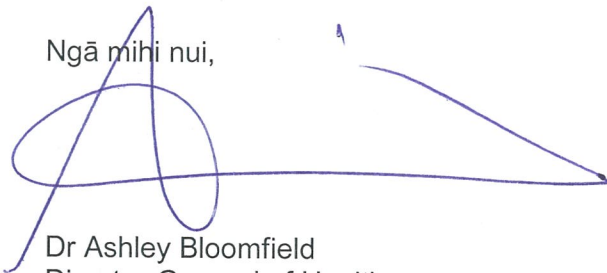
Thank you for your letter of 4 September on behalf of GPNZ and the PHO Clinical Leaders Group. Your supportive words are greatly appreciated by my team and I during what, as you quite aptly put, are the 'adventures of 2020'.

I must return the compliment and thank the primary care for the considerable effort, dedication and resilience the sector has shown during this time. I was particularly impressed to see how general practice teams changed the way care was delivered in response to COVID-19 almost overnight. I can only imagine the pivot to have the vast majority of previously in-person appointments being delivered via telehealth was no simple task.

I also want to thank the sector for constantly engaging with the Ministry regarding general practice sustainability and workforce issues resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. This continued engagement has been invaluable to support the response.

Thank you again for your letter and words of support. He waka eke noa – we are all in the this together.

Ngā mihi nui,



Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health