



## NZ Telehealth Forum & Resource Centre Newsletter - Important Announcement

Kia ora koutou,

Over the last few years, the NZ Telehealth Forum has received some financial support from Health NZ. This has enabled the forum to significantly expand its membership, working groups and practice communities. In recent years, telehealth has gained significant traction, becoming an essential tool integrated into our health systems. Regrettably, we received notice that the funding we have relied upon for the past few years won't be continued. We understand Health NZ's current fiscal constraints and thank them for the investment they have made.

The governance and executive teams, who remain passionate and committed to the cause, have had discussions about our path forward. In the coming weeks, you will notice some changes as we adjust to our new circumstances. We will scale down our activities to focus on the essentials, ensuring our long-term sustainability. This focused approach will allow us to make the most of our resources and position us for future growth when conditions improve.

You can read our media release [here](#).

### **So, what does this mean for working groups and community of practices?**

We have decided to merge the working groups and COPs into five groups. These are as follows:

- **Telehealth Community of Practice** – this merges Internationals COP, Professionals COP, Clinicians COP and Cancer Care
- **Patient Anywhere, Clinician Elsewhere (PACE) and Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)**
- **Research, Audit and Evaluation (RAE) and Data Standards (DS)**
- **Digital Health Equity Network (DHEN)**
- **AI COP (new COP)**

Some of the group meetings may change frequency or day/time, so if you are a member of these groups, please check your email inbox in the coming weeks for the new calendar invitation. We hope you will continue to join us for these meetings.

**Are you still accepting new memberships to the Forum?**

Yes. New membership registrations will remain open. We require all new members to complete this online form so we can continue to track who has joined the Forum.

**Can I still submit a telehealth project to your Project Library?**

We are still working through how this will work. The RAE working group are committed to reviewing and updating the Project Library for the Resource Centre website. In the coming weeks, we'll work closely with the group to discuss how this project will develop. In the meantime, please continue to submit projects to us.

**Will the webinars continue?**

We will hold one more webinar before the end of the year and then reassess whether we will continue to hold webinars in 2025, although the number of webinars will be reduced. The details about the upcoming webinar will be shared closer to the time via our usual channels: email, Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

**What communications will I receive from the Forum from now on?**

If you are subscribed to receive our general NZ Telehealth newsletter, you will continue to receive this.

**Will you respond to emails sent to [help@telehealth.org.nz](mailto:help@telehealth.org.nz)?**

This will still be monitored, but the amount of support and advice that can be offered will be limited.

As we try to navigate our new direction, your support and understanding during this transition period are greatly appreciated.

I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all our members, leadership team, governance group, our colleagues and friends at Health NZ and Mobile Health Group, as well as supporters of the forum. Although things will be a lot quieter, we encourage our valued and dedicated telehealth community to stand with us and continue to champion the vital role of telehealth in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Nga mihi nui,  
**Dr Ruth Large**  
NZTF Chair



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