

PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol (PSAAP) and changes to the appointment of Contracted Provider Agents

What is PSAAP?

The PHO Services Agreement Amendment Protocol (PSAAP) is the document that details the arrangements around amending the PHO Services Agreement (PHOSA).

The forum created by PSAAP is tasked with discussing and agreeing changes in the PHOSA which are then applied to General Practice through the Contracted Provider Agreement. (The "Back-to-Back" Agreement).

The forum is the place where proposed capitation uplifts are notified and consulted on. It also has a function of information sharing and discussion of issues that may have a consequential impact on parties to the agreement.

Most decisions at PSAAP are made by consensus. On rare occasions when issues are referred for negotiation, four Contracted Provider negotiators will be appointed by the nominated Contracted Provider agents, to represent the interests of all Contracted Providers. This process reflects that of the PHO negotiators.

With the Health reforms there has been a change to the parties at PSAAP. The Ministry of Health will no longer be a party but will have observer status. Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora will replace District Health Boards as parties. PHOs will maintain their long-established role at PSAAP with each PHO continuing to have the right to appoint to PSAAP. Contracted Providers continue to be a party to PSAAP, but their appointing arrangements have changed.

What has changed?

Historically the two Contracted Provider Representatives were appointed by a third party who was not a Contracted Provider. Initially this was the General Practice Leaders Forum, more recently the Contracted Provider Caucus (a subsidiary of the GPLF). After several years of lobbying and significant advocacy efforts it has been agreed that the rights and responsibilities of Contracted Providers should be the same as all other parties at PSAAP, and that Contracted Providers should be able to choose who represents them. Therefore, Contracted Providers now have the ability to appoint their own agents to PSAAP.

What does this mean?

This means that you can now choose who represents you and has your mandate at the PSAAP meetings.

This is a major milestone as it gives Contracted Providers the same rights of representation and appointment of agents to PSAAP as all other parties.

What do I have to do?

You need to nominate your mandated agent if you wish to be represented at PSAAP.

Attached is a list of entities that are willing to represent Contracted Providers. Each has provided information outlining the organisation, their purpose, and a brief position statement. The cost of representation (if any) is also provided. This list is not exhaustive.

You can choose one of these entities as your agent or you can choose your own agent if they are not listed.

Your agent must be aware of your nomination and agree to represent you.

You will have received a link to the nomination form with instruction on how to nominate your agent with this pack of information. Please follow the instructions carefully and nominate your agent if you wish to have one.

What if I do not choose anyone?

If you do not nominate an agent, then you will not be represented at PSAAP.

Can I share this with my colleagues?

Please do. We have made every effort to contact every Contracted Provider but know the limitations of email. We want all Contracted Providers who have the authority to do so, to have the opportunity to appoint their own agent.

What if I have questions?

You can email questions to secretariat@cpcaucus.org.nz and they will be forwarded to the current Contracted Provider Caucus for response. The current Contracted Provider Caucus comprises of GenPro, Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network and RNZCGP.