

19 June 2026

Submission on the proposal for new supply agreements for funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule, and widened access to influenza vaccine

1. Do you support this proposal?

Yes.

2. Do you have any feedback you wish to provide on this proposal?

We are supportive of this proposal. We're particularly pleased to see wider access to the flu vaccine for children aged 6 months to 5 years. This is an important group, as young children are more likely to spread infections, which can result in serious health risks for other whānau.

To support implementation for the 2027 flu season, we would expect to see strong promotional activity from Health New Zealand. As a Primary Health Organisation, we would support this and help share messaging across our Network of general practices.

We note the alternative vaccine available for people aged 65 years and over. It would be useful to have this clearly stated in the decision so we can support our practices and health staff to confidently communicate the options to patients.

We note the list price cost increase outlined in the proposal. While we understand the need for increases it would be helpful to have clear messaging explaining the reasons behind this, so practices can communicate this to their communities and minimise any confusion or concern.

We are supportive of widening access to the pneumococcal vaccine for people who have previously experienced a serious infection. To reduce the risk of pneumonia in the elderly and those with COPD, we would suggest that the vaccine is funded for those with a diagnosed moderate to severe COPD.

3. How do you identify?

Healthcare Organisation/Group.

4. If you're submitting feedback on behalf of an organisation or group, please specify.

ProCare is a leading healthcare provider that represents more than 140 general practices Auckland and Northland.

ProCare is dedicated to supporting excellence in primary care and delivering services that uplift the health and wellbeing of our communities. In Auckland alone, the practices we work with support about 700,000 people.

We are committed to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and advancing population health and equity to improve outcomes for Māori, Pacific Peoples, and others in need.