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Ms Belinda Hodson
Thyroid Association of New Zealand

Kia ora Belinda

Tri-iodothyronine (T3) in hypothyroidism management – Manatū Hauora role.

I am extremely appreciative of our previous engagements in regard to Manatū Hauora's role in facilitating recommendations made by the Select Committee in response to your petition on the inclusion of the use of T3 in the management of hypothyroid disease. I am writing to update you on the discussions that have since been held and to regrettably inform you we are unable to progress this work at this time.

As you may be aware, the enactment of the Pae Ora Act on 1 July 2022 resulted in a change of function for Manatū Hauora. Subsequently, team functions and work programmes required a review and in some instances reprioritisation to ensure we are aligning with our new function as stewards of the health system.

Undertaking work to convene and facilitate meetings with stakeholders to ascertain the efficacy of T3 in the management of hypothyroidism and the expected output was put forward for consideration to Manatū Hauora Chief Medical Officer and the Evidence, Research and Insights team. While acknowledged that this is a valuable piece of work, it was concluded that Manatū Hauora was not in the position to prioritise this work over other work and could not provide sufficient resources to achieve the desired output. It was also noted the true scope of this work would require cross system engagement and the appropriate buy-in from other responsible agencies.

I appreciate this is not the response you would wish to receive. Manatū Hauora is committed to keeping a watchful brief on emerging information and evidence. The Office of the Chief Clinical Officers remains interested and concerned that New Zealanders receive good care, and we are open to future engagements.

I thank you again for your time and commitment in bringing your concerns on behalf of the Thyroid Association NZ to our attention.

Ngā mihi

Dr Kate Scott
Clinical Chief Advisor, Medical

Manatū Hauora