

2 June 2026

Wendy McGuinness
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Wendy

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00203777

Thank you for your email on 20 May 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

Can you advise whether the diagram (Figure A1.13(b) below, and on p. 379 of the third edition of COVID-19 Nation Dates) is an accurate representation of the current framework of health emergency management documents? We are particularly interested in illustrating who is responsible for overseeing and publishing these plans. This diagram aims to show the difference between October 2015 (p. 3 of MOH's <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2015-10/national-health-emergency-plan-oct15-v2.pdf>) and March 2026.

Response

Current state (as of May 2026)

Health NZ currently operates under approved and extant emergency management documentation, including:

- The Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) framework and arrangements, as set out under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and relevant CDEM Plan Order 2015; and
- The National Health Emergency Plan (NHEP) and supporting health emergency management policies and procedures.

These documents continue to provide the authoritative basis for how the health system plans for, responds to, and recovers from emergencies. Roles, responsibilities, and escalation arrangements are defined through these approved instruments, with governance and oversight exercised through established national and regional emergency management structures.

As such, the current operating model for health emergency management is grounded in these approved processes and frameworks. Any representation of the current framework should reflect this position.

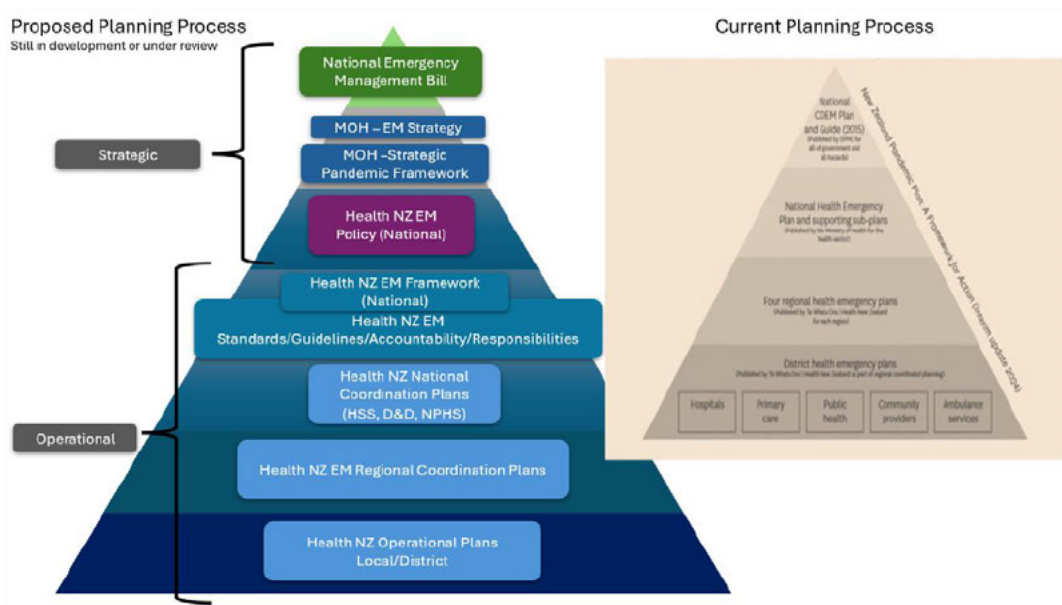
Documents under review and future state development

Health NZ is undertaking a programme of review and consolidation of national emergency management documentation to ensure it remains fit for purpose for the current health system. This includes the development of a Health NZ Emergency Management Framework, supported by standards, guidance, accountability and responsibility model documentation.

This work is in draft and under active review. While conceptual models and proposed structures may be used internally to inform design and consultation, they have not been approved or implemented and do not replace the current arrangements described above.

Accordingly, the below diagram or any other representations showing a future or revised framework should be understood as illustrative of a proposed future state only, rather than an

accurate depiction of current, approved practice. This is shown to provide context and to show the contrast against the current model. It is not for publication or wider distribution.



Summary

- Health NZ currently operates in accordance with approved CDEM arrangements and the National Health Emergency Plan.
- A revised Emergency Management Framework and associated standards are in development but remain draft and subject to approval.
- Future-state diagram is for showing intent or direction but should not be taken as representing the current process.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatoru.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

