



Office of the Auditor-General
100 Molesworth Street
Thorndon
WELLINGTON 6011

Matt Doocey
MP for Waimakariri

14 April 2022

Dear Mr Ryan

I am writing to you in your role as Auditor-General to ask you to conduct an investigation into the government's announcement to spend \$1.9 billion on mental health.

The recent Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission report found that improvements have not materialised, with little change in access and wait times to mental health and addiction services despite considerable investment in the sector. The Commission also found there was a need for leadership and a well-managed plan to execute change.

Your office found in its report 'Observations from our central government audits: 2020/21' "there were no performance measures assessing the extent of the public's greater access to mental health services" and "budget initiatives to expand mental health services did not result in any changes to the performance information."

In the last 3 weeks I have moved motions at the Health Select Committee on the following:

- *Briefing into the New Zealand Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission's "Te Huringa: Change and Transformation - Mental Health Service and Addiction Service Monitoring Report 2022"*
- *Briefing from the Ministry of Health, at a time that is appropriate to them, into their response to the findings of the New Zealand Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission's "Te Huringa: Change and Transformation - Mental Health Service and Addiction Service Monitoring Report 2022"*
- *Briefing from the Controller and Auditor-General on his findings that "budget initiatives to expand mental health services did not result in any changes to the*

Parliament

Parliament Buildings,
Wellington 6160
matt.dooceymp@parliament.govt.nz
04 817 9096

Kaiapoi

Unit 3A, 137 Williams Street,
Kaiapoi 7630
kaiapoi@parliament.govt.nz
03 327 0514

Rangiora

Level 1, Conway Building,
188 High Street, Rangiora 7400
waimakariri@parliament.govt.nz
03 310 7468

Facebook MattDoocey.Waimakariri • **Website** mattdoocey.co.nz

**National**

Authorised by Matt Doocey, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.





Matt Doocey
MP for Waimakariri

performance information for the appropriations. There were no performance measures assessing to what extent the public has greater access to mental health services" in his report 'Observations from our central government audits: 2020/21'

All motions have been voted down by government members. It is worth noting that all motions were supported by every other party.

New Zealanders deserve to know where the money has gone, why it seems to have made no difference, and why it has become even harder to access services. They also deserve to hear what performance measures are in place to ensure the desired outcomes are being achieved.

In writing, I ask you to investigate the \$1.9 billion allocated by Labour for mental health so that Kiwis struggling to access these services know exactly where it has gone.

I ask that urgent consideration be given to this matter.

I look forward to your response.

Matt Doocey
National Party Spokesperson for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Parliament

Parliament Buildings,
Wellington 6160
matt.dooceymp@parliament.govt.nz
04 817 9096

Kaiapoi

Unit 3A, 137 Williams Street,
Kaiapoi 7630
kaiapoi@parliament.govt.nz
03 327 0514

Rangiora

Level 1, Conway Building,
188 High Street, Rangiora 7400
waimakariri@parliament.govt.nz
03 310 7468

Facebook MattDoocey.Waimakariri • **Website** mattdoocey.co.nz

National

Authorised by Matt Doocey, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

