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11:10 - 11:35 Peter Foley Memorial Oration: Question Authority



The Peter Foley Oration 2017

by Ian St George

When the doctor is out of reach

An ever-growing void between doctors and the sick could have serious consequences on our future health system, so what's going wrong? Ged Cann and Rachel Thomas investigate.



PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES; RACHEL THOMAS: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES

Patients are being told to wait longer for appointments, and the number of doctors is falling. The gap between the two is widening. The result is a health system that is struggling to meet the needs of its patients. The gap between the two is widening. The result is a health system that is struggling to meet the needs of its patients.



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By the numbers
61 per cent of general owners and partners intend to retire in the next 10 years
22 per cent of GPs report feeling burned out
533,000 people wait more than a month to visit their GP
57 per cent of GPs are aged 50 or older
36 per cent of GPs feel they have enough time in the day to complete all their daily tasks
46 per cent of patients enrolled in a primary care network say their needs are not met

The reality is that, despite the absolute increase in expenditure on healthcare that is often alluded to by the minister, demand and need have gone up incrementally as the population has increased and the demographic has aged.

Inside 10 minutes 100-150 words 100-150 words 100-150 words 100-150 words

CATALOGUE ONLINE



Doctor shortage starts to hit patients

100-150 words

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One in nine Kiwis 'can't afford' to visit a GP

100-150 words

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No vacancy, doctors tell patients

GP shortage, training shortfall and ageing population could lead to no choice for new entrants.

100-150 words

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Futility

1. lack of effectiveness or success
2. lack of purpose or meaning
3. something futile

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O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with general practice,
And I must pause till it come back to me.