

Media Release

13 September 2018

Federation announces new Chair-Elect

The Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand was formally launched in the Grand Hall of Parliament yesterday with the announcement, in the company of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, that Honorable Steve Chadwick has become the Chair-Elect and, subject to ratification, will succeed the Establishment Board Chair, Dame Annette King.

Addressing an audience of over 150 Ministers, MPs and health leaders, Dame Annette King said “Steve is a former Associate Minister of Health who has had a major input into children’s health and tobacco policy in particular. She is a qualified midwife and passionate advocate for the role of primary care and reducing health inequalities.”



Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister (left) and Hon. Steve Chadwick pictured at the launch on the Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand in the Grand Hall at Parliament.

Welcoming the launch of the Federation, the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr David Clark said “This is a significant day. Primary health care is the foundation of the health system. I expect the Federation will be an important contributor as I develop this Government’s vision for collaborative, multi-disciplinary primary health care in New Zealand. This forum will allow all voices in the health system to be heard.”

The Establishment Board for the Federation is currently receiving membership applications and will then move to call for nominations for the election of its substantive Governance Board.

Accepting the role of Chair-Elect, Hon. Steve Chadwick said “I am very humbled to have been asked to lead this significant and bold health initiative. It is very affirming that such a diverse group of valued health professionals have taken this step. Nothing stays the same and we need to strategically plan and work together on how we face the big health issues that we must confront as a society. I have a pragmatic approach that was enabled by leaders such as Dame Annette King, based on experience, research and simply finding new ways of working that reduce inequality and make access to healthcare easier. I look forward to working with the incoming Board.”

Dame Annette King captured the thoughts of many at the launch, saying “I don’t believe we have had this level of commitment and unity in primary health care in my living memory.”



Dame Annette King (right) announces the appointment of Chair-Elect, Honorable Steve Chadwick at the launch of the Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand.

ENDS

Further information can be obtained from:

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Note to editors:

1. *Hon. Steve Chadwick:*

The Honourable Steve (Stephanie) Chadwick has been Mayor of Rotorua since October 2013. Steve’s career previous to the Mayoralty started in the health sector before moving into the local and national political arena.

Steve is a qualified Midwife, whose career in midwifery began at Hutt Hospital and extends beyond New Zealand to include senior nursing roles in London and Papua New Guinea. Most of her nursing career was spent at Rotorua Hospital, where she held a variety of positions including Manager of Women, Child and Family Services and Client Services Director at Lakeland Health Crown Health

Enterprise. Her community achievements during this time include establishing the first family planning clinic in Rotorua, helping to establish the first Women's Refuge in Rotorua, and the Rotorua School for Young Parents.

Steve's career in national politics began in 1999 when she ran a successful campaign for the New Zealand Labour Party and became the Member of Parliament for Rotorua. Her career in Central Government spanned twelve years, including three years as a List MP. During this time, she held the portfolios of Associate Minister of Health, Minister of Conservation and Minister of Women's Affairs. Her proudest achievements include sponsoring the Smoke free Environments Act and securing funding (\$72 million) for the clean-up of Rotorua lakes.

Since becoming Mayor of Rotorua, Steve has been a strong influence on Rotorua Lakes Council's new way of doing business through the *Rotorua 2030 Vision*. Under her leadership, significant programmes are underway to encourage sustainable living, revitalise the inner city, create economic growth, provide outstanding places to play and support Rotorua's creative communities.

Just recently, Rotorua Lakes Council has been awarded LGNZ local governance excellence awards for the Inner City Revitalisation, Mountain biking, Te Aka Mauri - the library and children's health services hub rebuilding. Rotorua has also been a LGNZ Supreme Award winner for governance and strategy for the last two years running.

2. *The latest agreed documentation will be updated shortly on the Federation's interim website at www.fph.org.nz*