

ELECTION MANIFESTO 2020

Our purpose:

We enable family centred care by keeping families together when their child is in a New Zealand hospital away from home.

For 30 years, RMHC® New Zealand has provided an essential service in partnership with District Health Boards across Aotearoa. We are a for-purpose organisation, supporting around 5,000 families each year through our accommodation and support programmes.



OUR PRIORITIES



1 Increase the accommodation component of the National Travel Assistance (NTA) scheme

The NTA scheme provides some financial assistance to people for whom the cost of travel is a barrier to accessing treatment. **However, the rate of NTA accommodation funding has remained at \$88.89 per night (excluding GST) since 2009.**

Despite the NTA scheme being reviewed by the Government in 2017/18 and the cost of accommodation increasing nationwide, there has not been an adjustment to the NTA accommodation rate for 11 years. For example, in 2015 the national average hotel room price was \$173.00 per night, up \$10 on the year prior. Increases continue.

We call on the incoming Government to increase the accommodation component of the National Travel Assistance (NTA) scheme.



2 Ensure the NTA scheme is broadened to ensure equitable allocation

Since its establishment in 2006, the NTA scheme support has been primarily based on a distance criteria for families who must travel from their hometown for their child's specialist services. **However the distance criteria continues to preclude other high need families from accessing support, despite them having a very real need for assistance.**

We are seeing increasing social complexity in families, with extended family and whānau requiring accommodation and support, to enable the family centred model of care. This is not captured under the current NTA scheme. When a child has a life-threatening situation, it is critical that family members can remain close.

We call on the incoming Government to broaden the NTA scheme to include needs-based criteria irrespective of distance requirements.



3 Reform the For Purpose (Charity and NFP) sector operating across the healthcare space

The recently published Health and Disabilities Review, called for changes that will reduce fragmentation, strengthen leadership and accountability and improve equity of access and outcomes for all New Zealanders.

The For Purpose sector is a significant part of the delivery mechanism for improving health outcomes, **however the sector is awash with competing organisations that bid for the same dollar while creating unnecessary duplication, exacerbating inefficiencies and hampering collective impact.** It is necessary to reshape the sector to best support and enhance the implementation of the Health and Disabilities Review recommendations.

We are calling on the incoming Government to lead a conversation of reform and improvement across the For Purpose sector in the healthcare space.