



NEW ZEALAND PRIVATE SURGICAL
HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION INC



The NZ Private Surgical Hospitals Association

Position Paper

SEPTEMBER 2024

Private surgical hospitals can support Government to reduce growing pressure on the public health system. In partnership, we can provide joint public-private solutions to the ever-growing financial and capacity constraint pressures.

Whole-of-sector approaches can work well as was demonstrated effectively during the COVID-19 response in early 2020. NZPSHA hospitals are an additional resource with the relevant capability to work effectively alongside the challenged public health sector. The private sector can also bring capital to the New Zealand health system, ensuring facilities are available without impacting Government funds to provide them.

We seek to take a whole-of-sector approach to workforce development and training by utilising the expertise of private surgical hospitals as a skilled training resource.



204

↑ 2% increase since 2023
theatres



4,795

↓ 0.1% decrease since 2023
FTE staff undertake



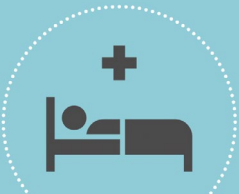
35

↓ 20% decrease since 2023
procedure rooms



224,457

↑ 2% increase since 2023
surgical discharges per annum
(29,696: Te Whatu Ora contract procedures)
(90% of all ACC funded surgery annually)



1,235

↑ 2% increase since 2023
beds

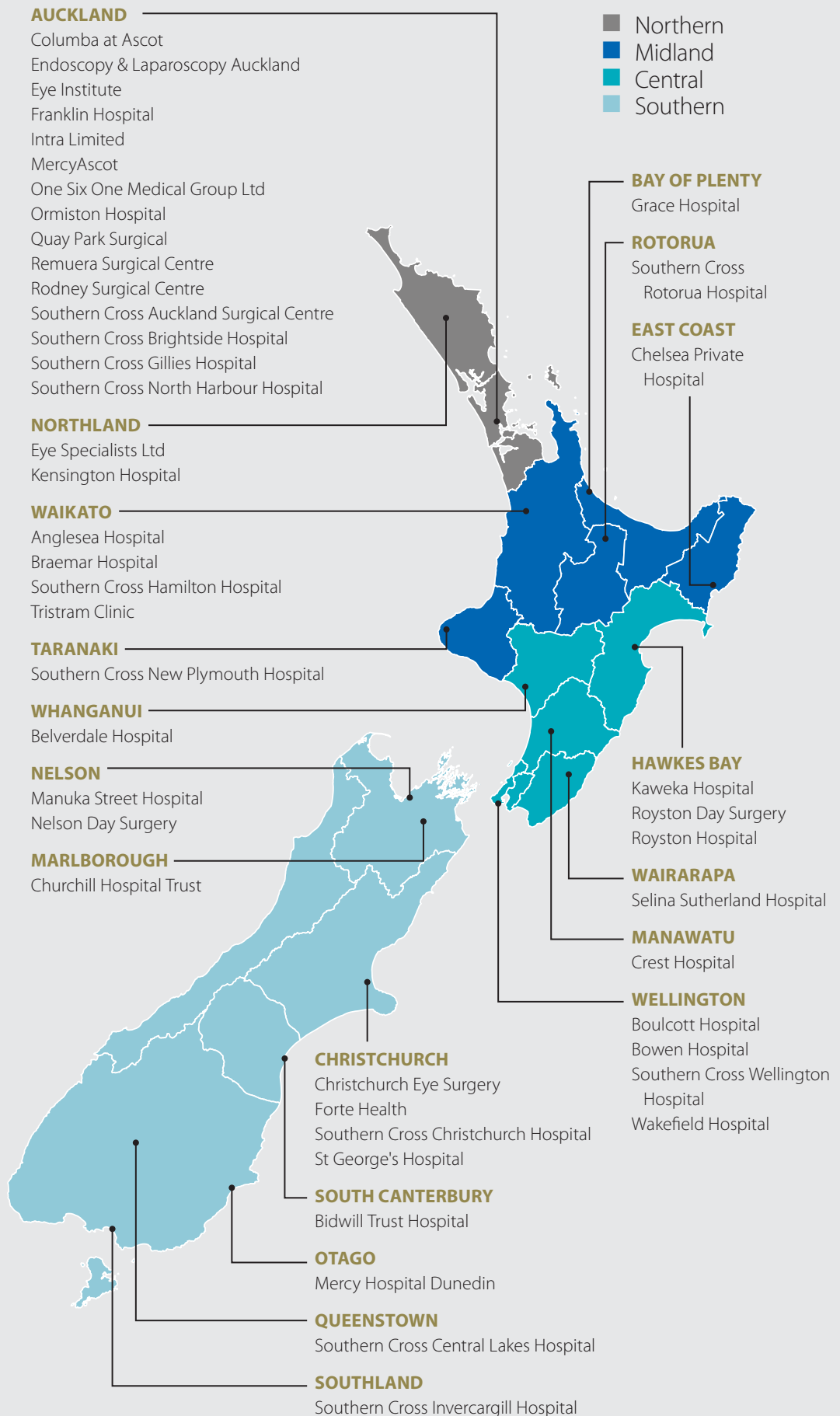


67%

No change since 2023
of all elective surgery in New Zealand

NZPSHA Members

The New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association promotes, positions and connects the private surgical hospitals in New Zealand.



A whole-of-sector partnering strategically

The NZPSHA was established in 2005 to represent private surgical hospitals within New Zealand. The purpose is to connect the private surgical hospital sector, represent on collective issues within the New Zealand health sector and promote excellence.

All major private surgical facilities are members of the NZPSHA. The Association is comprised of 34 organisations with 46 surgical facilities.

The collective membership undertakes over 224,457 surgical discharges per annum representing 67% of all elective surgery performed in this country. This includes Te Whatu Ora and ACC contracted procedures – delivering over 90% of ACC's elective services.

NZPSHA members undertake a full range of elective surgery, from complex neurosurgery and cardiothoracic surgery through to minor procedures.

Members are certified to the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 and/or accredited against international standards. Our member hospitals give high priority to quality, safety, and credentialing.

We believe that all New Zealand hospitals and day-stay facilities should meet these standards.

NZPSHA embraces a 'centralised approach' to contracting with Te Whatu Ora, including planned care outcomes, equity, the improvement of health for all New Zealanders and looking at initiatives that transcends election cycles. An example of this is health workforce training needs. We support a joined up approach to workforce development, including utilising the capacity and expertise of private surgical hospitals as a skilled training environment.

NZPSHA Members seek:

- A whole-of-sector collaboration, for better outcomes for patients, the health system and government.
- To be a solution to address burgeoning waiting lists for elective surgery.
 - Freeing up public hospital operating theatres for acute and major surgeries.
- To engage with long term planning and partnerships in the delivery of planned care:

Our NZPSHA members are committed to building hospital infrastructure and investing in new technologies, inclusive of robotic assistance.

Recommendation: That publicly funded entities and the private surgical hospitals sector enter long-term partnerships to meet the growing, unmet demand for elective surgery and growing waiting lists.

Workforce development and training

New Zealand is experiencing clinical workforce shortages. Our system is too small to duplicate expertise and effort unnecessarily.

Private surgical hospitals have the capability to support in providing training places, estimated to be as much as another 50%, which would contribute actively and positively to growing a sustainable health workforce for New Zealand.

Private surgical hospitals provide Registered Nurse Assistant to the Anaesthetist (RNAA) training. These trainees then go on to work across both the private and public sectors, helping to boost capacity where it is needed most.

Private surgical hospitals support capacity constrained public hospitals by increasing workforce training inclusive of nurses, allied health, assistants to the anaesthetist and medical specialists.

Recommendation: Partner with private surgical hospitals to enable the Government to increase its flexible health workforce model and increase urgently needed training capacity.

c/- Executive Director

New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association

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