

Evaluation of the Samoa Institutional Linkage Programme



<p>What we were asked to do</p>	<p>We were commissioned to undertake an independent evaluation of the Samoa Institutional Linkage Programme (ILP). The ILP is a programme of support funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme and managed by Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) to build the capacity and capability of the Samoan National Health Service (NHS). The programme provides capacity development support across governance, management and clinical services in the NHS, and clinical services to patients both in-country and in New Zealand via a Medical Treatment Scheme (MTS).</p> <p>The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, efficiency, impact and effectiveness of the programme, and determine whether a further phase of New Zealand Aid Programme support is necessary, following the scheduled end of the ILP in June 2014.</p>
<p>How we approached the project</p>	<p>The research took a mixed methods approach, comprising quantitative and qualitative elements. The quantitative work focused on analysis of budgets and expenditure, and on service volumes – disaggregated by gender and age where possible. The qualitative research involved semi-structured interviews with stakeholders in New Zealand and within the Samoan health system, including a week of interviews in Apia during November 2013.</p> <p><i>continued over</i></p>

Our findings

Our findings were as follows:

- The Programme has clearly been relevant, and aligned with NHS priorities and needs.
- In terms of effectiveness, there is scope to improve the reporting of patient outcomes so as to better understand the impacts and the quality of the treatments being delivered.
- In terms of efficiency, the focus of the Overseas Referrals Scheme on children and young people allows for a relatively long timeframe for benefits to accrue from the major surgery undertaken. This allocation of resources can therefore be seen as providing relatively good value for money. In terms of overall impacts, the quality and safety benefits from the various initiatives to strengthen the building blocks of hospital care are just beginning to be felt and will take time to fully accrue.
- The Programme could better articulate how it can prioritise its resources to support the patient health and capacity development outcomes of the NHS.
- The partnership model has led to increased clinical networking with CMDHB staff and the emergence of a 'sister institution' that is responsive in meeting the emerging or unexpected needs of the NHS.
- The use of CMDHB as the Management Services Contractor enables relationships among clinical, technical and management peers from institutions that are similarly focused on planning and delivering health care for their populations.
- We concluded that there is value in continuing with the Programme. We also concluded that, subject to some strengthened performance accountabilities, the partnership model should be maintained.

Read the final report

<http://www.aid.govt.nz/about-aid-programme/measuring-results/evaluation/evaluation-reports/2014/evaluation-samoa-institutio>