

TARGET

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# Shorter stays in emergency departments

**LEAD MINISTER**

**Hon Dr Shane Reti**, Minister of Health

**LEAD AGENCIES**

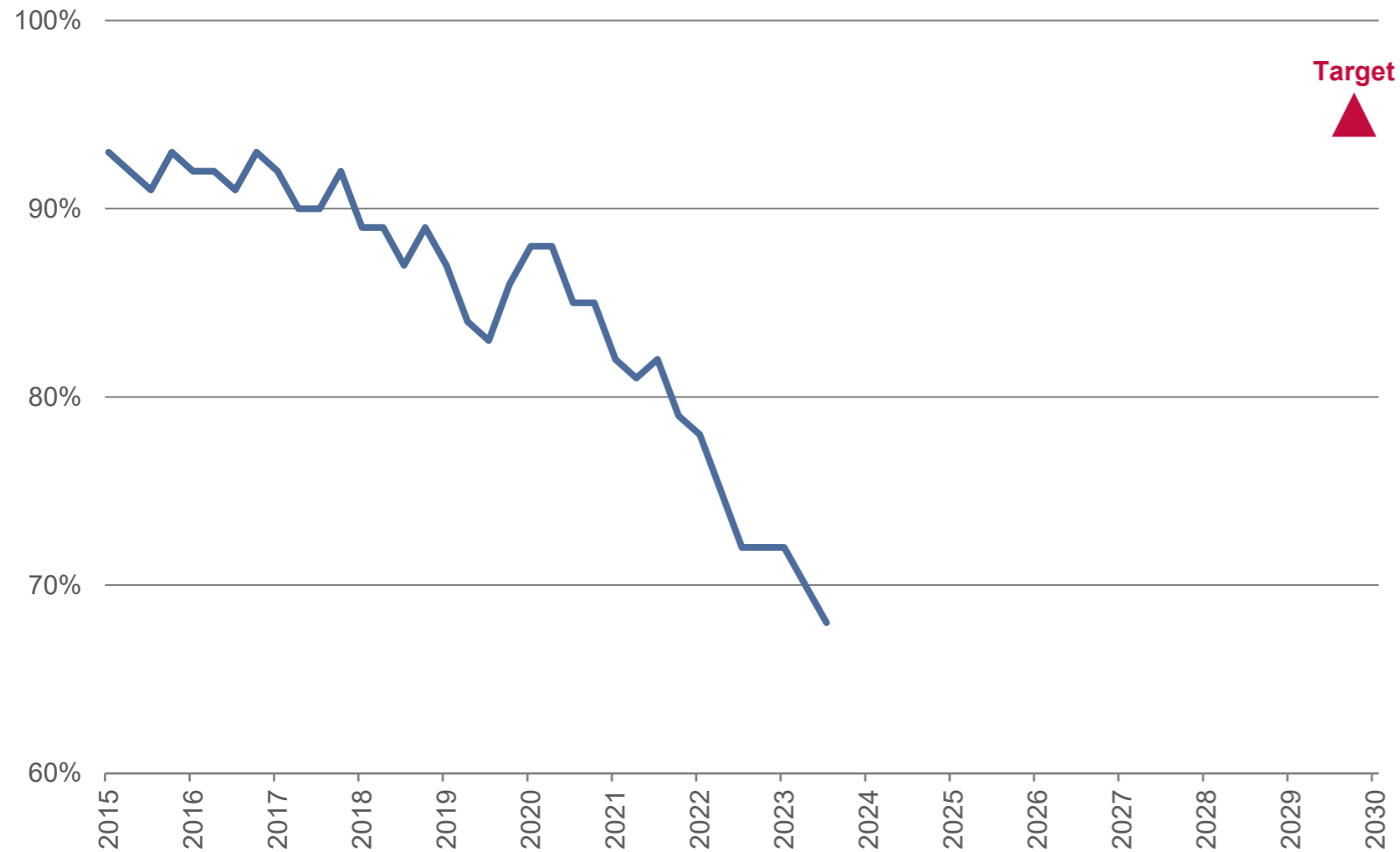
**Ministry of Health**, Director-General of Health, Dr Diana Sarfati

**Health New Zealand**, Chief Executive, Margie Apa

## WHAT IS THE TARGET?

**Ninety five per cent of patients to be admitted, discharged or transferred from an emergency department within six hours.**

**Proportion of patients to be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours**



March and September quarterly data.

## WHY IS IT NEEDED AND WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

**More patients will be waiting a shorter time to have their emergency health needs met.**

All New Zealanders **deserve, and expect, timely access to quality health care**, especially when they are in need of emergency care.

Currently patients are waiting for too long in the Emergency Department, and often with very little information about when they might be seen. This can be stressful for people and may be detrimental to their health.

In September 2023, 68 per cent of patients were admitted, discharged, or transferred from the Emergency Department within six hours. This represents a significant decreasing trend in the proportion of patients meeting the six hour target. We need to turn this around.

This is an ambitious target and we came close to achieving it **in the quarters between December 2014 and June 2015 when 93 per cent of patients were admitted, discharged, or transferred** from Emergency Departments within six hours.

There are interdependencies between Emergency Department wait times and improving access to elective treatment as they require the same clinicians and hospital beds so we need a focus on both of these areas to really improve access to health care.

## HOW WILL WE KEEP TRACK?

Health agencies will report results every quarter. The first quarterly results will be for July-September 2024.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for monitoring performance of Health New Zealand and the wider health system. Health New Zealand will provide regular performance reporting to the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Health agencies will report on progress each quarter. National and regional results will be published so New Zealanders will be able to see how their local hospital is performing.

Performance information about the health system is available at the Health New Zealand and Ministry of Health websites [www.tewhatauora.govt.nz](http://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz) and [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

For information on the Government Targets go to [www.dpmc.govt.nz](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz)