

What can we learn from New Zealand?

The New Zealand health system is facing significant change. Like other countries there are the usual cost pressures due to an aging population and new medical technology.

New Zealand is also confronting some unique challenges. Increased ethnic diversity with growth in Maori, Polynesian and Asian populations is leading to changing health care needs (Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world). New Zealand's relative global isolation has economic and social effects which impact on health care service delivery.

The election in late 2008 could see a new Government formed leading to changes in health, including possible competition within New Zealand's unique state-run Accident Compensation scheme.

This iFHP CEO forum will focus on the unique and interesting aspects of the New Zealand Health system. This includes its world leading approach to State purchasing of pharmaceuticals – which has drug companies feeling nervous.

We will also explain why New Zealand is the only country in the world which has been able to sustain health insurance coverage, for one-third of its population, without Government subsidies or tax breaks.

The CEO forum is based in Auckland ("City of Sails") for the first two days. The conference venue is the new Westin Hotel located on the water in the Viaduct Harbour district (where Team New Zealand hosted the America's Cup in 2000 and 2003).

On Day three the forum moves to Queenstown (2 hour flight) in New Zealand's awesome Southern Alps. This part of the CEO forum will provide an insight into New Zealand's unique no fault Accident Compensation scheme, including a discussion on possible competitive models. The three day programme will be highly interactive and include two relevant and focused CEO discussion forums.