



Trusted, Actionable Health Information

New Zealand

Proposal to host the October 2016
IHTSDO Conference, Business Meeting and
SNOMED CT Implementation Showcase

Ministry of Health, January 2015

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Photo acknowledgements:

Page 2: Becky Nunes

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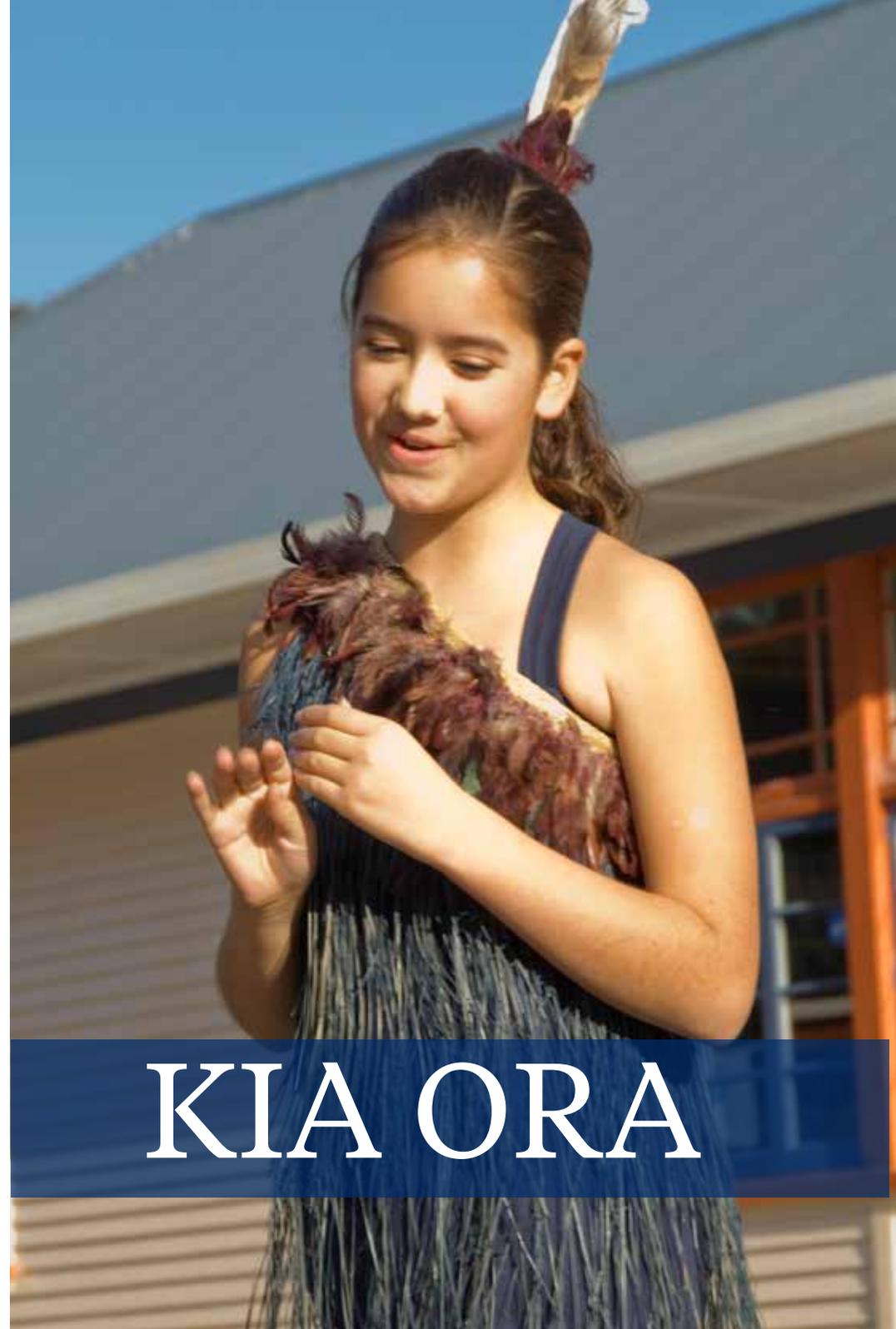
Page 8: St John

Page 12, 17: Te Papa Museum

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Page 17: Wellington Business Events (Signs of a Nation)

Page 18: James Heremaia



KIA ORA



The Beehive, Parliament grounds, Wellington

Key points

- This proposal is made by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.
- Our Minister of Health fully supports New Zealand hosting the event.
- Hosting the event in New Zealand can meet all of IHTSDO's requirements.
- SNOMED initiatives are integral to our national e-health programme.
- Our e-health leaders welcome the chance to deliver a keynote presentation.
- We recommend timing the event to occur close to New Zealand's own annual health informatics conference, scheduled for late October 2016.
- Capital city Wellington is our recommended location for the event, with National Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa the preferred venue.
- There is also an option to hold the event in another major city, Auckland.
- Tourism New Zealand funding is available for a familiarisation visit by two people from IHTSDO prior to a final decision on the host country and city.
- The New Zealand Ministry of Health will contribute a pōwhiri (Māori welcome) and evening reception to the event.
- New Zealand is easy to reach for non-member Asia Pacific nations wishing to attend as observers.
- Time is short to secure a venue and we urge you to contact our proposed suppliers as soon as possible.

Welcome to New Zealand

*He aha te nui o tea o?
He Tangata! He Tangata!
He Tangata!*

*What is the most important thing in
the world? It is people! It is people!
It is people!*

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to New Zealand to attend the October 2016 conference of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation.

As a small nation, New Zealand has a long history of being early adopters of and adapters to new technologies to improve the health and wellbeing of the country.

Our decision in 2007 to be a charter member of the IHTSDO and to place SNOMED Clinical Terms at the heart of New Zealand's health IT continues this history of global discovery and early engagement.

The New Zealand health sector is engaged in rapid technological development to improve and coordinate services. The primary objectives of these changes are to place the patient at the centre of the delivery of primary, secondary and tertiary care, increase consumer engagement in their own health care and the use of multidisciplinary teams to deliver health care in the community. Better shared health information is a key enabler of this new integrated model of care.

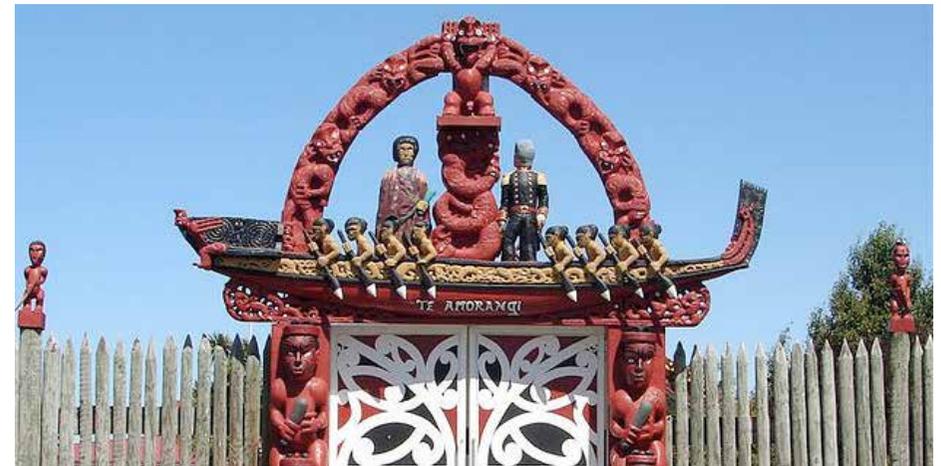


Innovation is an important New Zealand characteristic and has been central to the development of our nation over hundreds of years. We are committed to improving the health of consumers and to using SNOMED CT as one of the tools to deliver this outcome. I encourage you to come to New Zealand and engage with our health care community to develop and refine SNOMED CT for the benefit of all peoples.

I am sure you will enjoy your time with us and when you reflect on your time in New Zealand you will agree: *Ahakoia he iti he pounamu* – *Although it is small, it is greenstone (a treasure).*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Coleman'.

Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman
Minister of Health



Introduction

This document presents our proposal to host the October 2016 IHTSDO Conference, Business Meeting and SNOMED CT Implementation Showcase in New Zealand.

New Zealand is a charter member of IHTSDO and is committed to the organisation and its purpose. We believe that a universal system of clinical terminology is essential to the success of electronic health records. We fully support IHTSDO's recent moves to strengthen the services provided to member countries and to accelerate investment in SNOMED and related products.

We would be proud to host the event in New Zealand and to share our experiences with other member countries, affiliates and the international health informatics community. SNOMED implementation is gathering pace in New Zealand with the national roll-out of our medicines terminology and the use of SNOMED in new ambulance and emergency department information systems. Other initiatives would receive a boost ahead of the event, and we are confident that we will have innovative solutions to share with delegates throughout the week.

Trusted, actionable health information is the theme we propose for the 2016 event. Patients and health care providers need to be able to trust the information that is being shared about health issues. And that information must be actionable if we are to create better health outcomes and a better health system.

We will work hand in hand with IHTSDO to create the best possible event in New Zealand. Thank you for the opportunity to make this proposal.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Osborne".

Graeme Osborne
Director, National Health IT Board
Director, Information Group
Ministry of Health



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Jessamine".

Dr Stewart Jessamine
Group Manager, Medsafe, Ministry of Health
IHTSDO General Assembly representative for
New Zealand

Hosting the event in New Zealand

Health informatics is a crucial aspect of a smart health system. In New Zealand, we have a successful national e-health programme and a growing community of patients, clinicians, researchers, health executives, policy makers and software vendors who are working together to improve health care and our health system through better use of information.

SNOMED is integral to these plans as our national standard for clinical terminology. The clinical community increasingly appreciates the value of SNOMED for clinical coding at point of care, and vendors are seeing competitive advantages in having SNOMED-enabled products. It is encouraging that the online education courses recently offered by IHTSDO were fully subscribed in New Zealand.

Our strategy for hosting this event is to work closely with the local health informatics community and to create practical links with our e-health programme. For example, by the time of the event in 2016, we expect that New Zealand health care providers and software vendors will be able to demonstrate mobile apps that employ SNOMED to deliver novel, data-driven functionality to consumers and clinicians.

National e-health programme

Our e-health programme reflects the primary objective of delivering health care closer to home. Multidisciplinary health care teams provide services in the community and patients are becoming more involved in their own health care through online access to personal health information. Better shared health information is enabling new models of care to develop. Our continuing priorities include regional information platforms,

patient portals, telehealth and clinical pathways. Now entering a second five-year phase, our e-health programme is developing new themes of trusted information and personalisation.

International engagement

Delegations from the governments of Brazil and South Korea visited New Zealand in 2014 to learn about our e-health programme and share their own experiences. We are aware that Brazil is a recent observer at IHTSDO events, and we have taken the opportunity to discuss SNOMED with our Korean visitors too.

We are committed to working with our customer relations lead to help promote SNOMED in the Asia-Pacific region. We see opportunities in the following areas.

- New Zealand has strong cultural, economic and political ties with other Pacific nations, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji.
- Our national e-health programme team shares information and SNOMED resources with NEHTA in Australia. New Zealand hospitals use the ICD-10 Australian Modification and related standards. Many of the same software vendors operate in both countries.
- Further afield, New Zealand was the first developed country in the world to establish a free-trade agreement with China. One

of our affiliates provides HL7 education services in China, and another has links with Indonesia.

- The New Zealand Ministry of Health has helped HL7 New Zealand participate in developing new HL7 standards.
- Besides SNOMED, HL7 and ICD-10, our national standards include LOINC, the Omaha System and the Global Medical Device Nomenclature. New Zealand has developed HL7-based interoperability around interRAI clinical assessments and we believe that SNOMED could be introduced there too.
- Our universities provide health informatics courses to many overseas students.
- New Zealand is an active member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its Western Pacific region.

Vendor engagement

New Zealand company Orion Health is a standout international health care software vendor. We note that past IHTSDO events have received sponsorship from Orion Health. There are other prominent local and international vendors in the New Zealand market. Many vendors are represented by New Zealand Health IT (www.healthit.org.nz), who could help promote a trade presence at the event.

Timing for the event

New Zealand's own annual health informatics conference, usually held in October or November, attracts several hundred participants (600 people in October 2014). We expect that many participants would be interested in taking the opportunity to attend the SNOMED event as well. We have discussed with the host Health Informatics New Zealand (HINZ) how best to position the two events so that the programmes are complementary and audiences for both are maximised.

It seems likely that the HINZ conference in 2016 will be held from Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November. We favour a

SNOMED event that runs the week beforehand, namely Sunday 23 to Friday 28 October. Interested SNOMED showcase attendees could then easily move on to the HINZ conference after a weekend's break.

A second option would be to have the SNOMED event follow the HINZ conference, although the dovetail would not be as neat because of the intervening days to the SNOMED showcase.

As a third option, the two events could be run concurrently in the same location. While HINZ conference organisers support this possibility, we suspect that the smaller SNOMED event would lose its autonomy and distinct character. And HINZ will be even busier than usual in 2016 with the likely inclusion of an international telehealth forum.

Lastly, the SNOMED event could be held earlier in October (or even in September), completely separate from the HINZ conference. We would need to avoid clashing with the WHO Family of International Classifications scheduled for 8–14 October in Tokyo.

October and November are busy months for conferences in New Zealand and we advise you to secure a venue as early as possible. Most venues will accept no-obligation pencil bookings.

For more information about the HINZ conference, see the website: www.hinz.org.nz

About the New Zealand Ministry of Health

The New Zealand Ministry of Health is our government agency responsible for protecting and improving the health of New Zealanders within a sustainable health system. We operate the SNOMED National Release Centre for New Zealand, and Ministry of Health employees represent New Zealand on the IHTSDO General Assembly and Member Forum. The Ministry of Health supports the National Health IT Board and its clinical, consumer, implementer and standards advisory groups.

SNOMED implementation in New Zealand

New Zealand is actively implementing SNOMED in regional and national systems as a foundational requirement of our national e-health programme. Many of our affiliate health care providers and vendors are working to implement SNOMED in new products and solutions.

Emergency care

Recent SNOMED implementation efforts have been directed towards emergency care. This year, ambulance officers will begin using a touch-screen application to capture SNOMED-coded information about every patient they treat. A care summary – documenting clinical impressions, medications and interventions – will be copied at transfer of care to emergency departments and other providers, where new information systems are also becoming SNOMED-enabled. SNOMED is proving to be a perfect tool for the fast-paced demands of emergency care and the need for interoperability.

New Zealand Medicines Terminology

The New Zealand Medicines Terminology is a SNOMED national extension that is based on earlier work from the United Kingdom and Australia. Community and hospital medication management solutions that use the medicines terminology are in national roll-out.

Disability support services

Equitable access to disability support services is prioritised through a new information system that uses SNOMED to identify disability types.

Referrals and clinical pathways

In future, SNOMED will be used to capture better referral and triage information in order to drive clinical decision support and selection of the best clinical pathway for each patient. SNOMED-coded information about patient flows will be captured and analysed to enable service delivery to be improved.

Clinical information systems

Community health care providers and hospitals are now requiring SNOMED to be implemented with new clinical information systems.

National telehealth service

A national telehealth service will use SNOMED to capture the essentials of every call received from members of the public and to drive clinical decision support.



Candidate keynote speakers

We propose a keynote presentation that is introduced by the Minister of Health and delivered by leading figures in New Zealand health IT and the local SNOMED community of practice.

Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman

Minister of Health, Minister of Sport and Recreation

Chai Chuah

Acting Director-General of Health, Ministry of Health

Mr Chuah leads the development of our national health strategy and is a champion of health IT.

Dr Murray Milner

Chair, National Health IT Board

Dr Milner is a leader in strategic governance of health IT in New Zealand.

Graeme Osborne

Director, National Health IT Board

Director, Information Group, Ministry of Health

Mr Osborne is the architect of our National Health IT Plan and leads its implementation.

Dr Sadhana Maraj

Manager, Health IT Programmes and Innovation,
Ministry of Health

Dr Maraj is the clinical lead for the national e-health programme and represented New Zealand when IHTSDO was first formed.

Professor Alan Merry

Chair, Health Quality and Safety Commission

Head of School of Medicine, The University of Auckland

Professor Merry was recognised in 2009 as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to medicine.

He is an eminent figure in New Zealand health informatics.

Dr Richard Medlicott

General practitioner, health care executive and New Zealand e-health ambassador

Dr Medlicott was instrumental as a special-interest group member in creating the SNOMED reference set for family medicine.

Dr Tom Morton

Clinical Director, Emergency Departments, Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Dr Morton's SNOMED-enabled ED information system won first prize in a 2014 National Health IT Board competition.

Conference venue

We offer a choice of two major cities for this conference, namely Wellington and Auckland. Both have excellent conference and accommodation facilities and are easily reached from overseas. We will cover them in our preferred order.

Wellington

Wellington is our recommended conference location.

Situated as the central hub for the country, our capital city consistently ranks among the top cities to visit around the world. Wellington is home to Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, which we propose is the ideal venue for the conference.

Known as the smart city of New Zealand, Wellington is home to all government departments, the local headquarters of a number of multinationals, three world-ranked universities and many companies in the burgeoning technology, software and film industries.

Wellington is a compact, walkable and picturesque city, tucked between green hills and the sea. In a matter of minutes, visitors can stroll from the downtown business district to a forest reserve or harbour-side beaches.



Wellington harbour, city and suburbs

Holding the event in the capital makes it possible for the Minister of Health to attend the keynote presentation and address delegates.

For more information, see the Discover Wellington website: www.wellingtonnz.com/discover

Conference venue in Wellington

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is the proposed conference venue. Te Papa, as it is known, is culturally unique and the perfect location for a conference of this size in New Zealand. Te Papa is located on Wellington's waterfront, 15 minutes by taxi from Wellington International Airport, close to a range of hotels and the city's business and entertainment districts.

Te Papa's theatre, with tiered seating, comfortably seats over 300 people. Conference rooms offer panoramic views of the harbour, while museum exhibit and foyer spaces would provide a dramatic setting for the conference dinner and evening receptions.

Te Papa would fully cater this event. Lunches and refreshments would be served in an attractive area with room for all delegates and 20 or more vendor display booths. Audio-visual equipment is to a high standard, with built-in projectors, speakers and cameras in all rooms.

Nearby hotels include the Museum Art Hotel, Amora Hotel, Bay Plaza Hotel and Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay.

Te Papa website links:

- Conferences and functions information: www.tepapa.govt.nz/ConferencesAndFunctions/Documents/default.html
- Theatre for plenary sessions: www.tepapa.govt.nz/ConferencesAndFunctions/Spaces/Pages/SoundingsTheatre.aspx

- Meeting spaces: www.tepapa.govt.nz/ConferencesAndFunctions/Spaces/Pages/default.aspx
- Conference dinner venue: www.tepapa.govt.nz/ConferencesAndFunctions/Spaces/Pages/WellingtonFoyer.aspx

Supplementary venues

The iconic Beehive, the executive wing of our parliament, has facilities available as an alternative evening reception venue. It lies in the parliamentary grounds a short walk, taxi or bus ride from Te Papa around the waterfront.

The historic St James Theatre in Courtenay Place is another impressive venue within walking distance of Te Papa that could serve as an evening reception venue.

Evening entertainment in Wellington

Wellington offers rich possibilities for evening excursions over the course of the event.

The Weta Cave Workshop Tour gives a fascinating insight into the production of some of the world-famous movies that have been made in Wellington. A special tour for delegates could be arranged for one of the free evenings.





There is also the option of a night tour of Zealandia, the incredible native wildlife sanctuary that lies just 10 minutes from the central city. Here, delegates would be introduced to some of New Zealand's rare birds, reptiles and insects.

A ride up the central-city cable car leads to the Carter Observatory's planetarium and a state-of-the-art digital experience and presentation of our solar system from a Pacific perspective.

On the waterfront, the Museum of Wellington City and Sea has been voted one of the world's top 50 museums.

Wellington City Council support

Wellington Business Events, a city council organisation, supports this proposal and will be available free of charge to help you organise the event, negotiate with hotels and arrange activities and access to the venues described above. International events are less commonly held in Wellington, but that only makes our local organisers eager to work all the harder for you.



Auckland

We offer Auckland as an alternative location.

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city, with a population of nearly 1.5 million, and is home to one in three New Zealanders. It is the country's financial and economic powerhouse and a melting pot of European, Pacific and Asian cultures.

Nicknamed the city of sails and surrounded by sparkling harbours, Auckland is the sailing technology capital of the world. Its excellent conference venues, accommodation and infrastructure are complemented by world-class shopping, superb food and wine and buzzing waterfront precincts, which host international events ranging from concerts to technology conferences to world cup sporting competitions.

Auckland is also a wonderful base for exploring New Zealand. Within a few hours' leisurely drive of the city lie the ancient kauri forests and Māori cultural centres of the Far North, the unique thermal region of Rotorua and the famed beaches of the Coromandel Peninsula.

For more information about Auckland, see the Auckland Tourism website: www.aucklandnz.com



We have investigated two possible conference venues in central Auckland:

- Aotea Centre, partnering with nearby Rendezvous Hotel for accommodation: [www.aucklandconventions.co.nz/Venues/Rooms.aspx?Venue=Aotea Centre](http://www.aucklandconventions.co.nz/Venues/Rooms.aspx?Venue=Aotea+Centre)
- Sky City Events Centre, with Sky City Hotel for accommodation: www.skycityauckland.co.nz/functions/conventions

The Aotea Centre is located in the central business district, 60 minutes by taxi from Auckland International Airport.

Auckland Council business unit the Auckland Conventions Bureau would help you organise the event.

Familiarisation visit

The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with Tourism New Zealand, invites two representatives from IHTSDO to visit New Zealand prior to a final decision being made on the host country and city for the 2016 conference. We will show your representatives around the proposed venues in both Wellington and Auckland to assure you of our capability to deliver an exceptional experience for delegates in 2016. We will fund the full cost of this visit, including all air fares (international and domestic) and other transport costs, accommodation and hosted meals.

This funding is made available through Tourism New Zealand's conference assistance programme.



Visiting New Zealand

As a leading nation in the Pacific, New Zealand boasts a vibrant, multicultural population, a stunning natural environment and a reputation for warmth and generosity. We are renowned for our friendliness and taking hospitality to the extreme to ensure that our visitors experience the best we have to offer.

Language

English is the main language spoken in New Zealand. The other official languages are te reo Māori and New Zealand sign language. Visitors can expect to be greeted in Māori on a regular basis. Translators are readily available for most other languages as required.

Political and economic situation

Based at the heart of the peaceful Pacific, New Zealand has a very stable economic and political climate. We are confident we can organise this international conference without any risk of political or economic upset.

Personal safety

As a compact island nation, surrounded by large oceans, New Zealand has no natural predators and enjoys a Global Peace Index ranking of the fourth most peaceful country in the world. It is a very safe and easy country to travel through.

Accessibility

All public buildings, hotels and convention centres provide access for people with a disability. Public trains and buses have facilities for wheelchairs.

Visitor visa

It is easy to come to New Zealand as a visitor from most overseas destinations. Most citizens of IHTSDO member nations will not require a visa to enter our country. However, some conference attendees may need to obtain a visitor visa before they travel. For details, see the Immigration New Zealand website: www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/visit



Travel and local transport

Air travel to New Zealand

New Zealand is a popular tourist destination and several major airlines, including our national carrier Air New Zealand, operate routes from Europe, America, Asia and neighbouring Australia. There are international airports at both major cities proposed for this event, as well as in Christchurch, the main city in the South Island. All have excellent internal flight connections.

Reaching Wellington from overseas

Wellington is our preferred location. For many overseas visitors, this will mean an extra internal flight. However, because the airport is so well connected and only a short drive from the central city, overall travel time is comparable to the Auckland alternative.

- Flight time from London (for example) to Wellington is about 26 hours, compared with 24 hours to Auckland.
- Wellington is 45 minutes flying time from Auckland, with about 50 flights per day between the two cities.
- The airport is 15 minutes by taxi from the city centre in Wellington, compared with 60 minutes (or longer at peak times) in Auckland.
- Wellington is served via other air routes. Emirates and Qantas airlines operate routes from Asia and Europe via Australia to Wellington. Singapore Airlines flies via Christchurch to Wellington, with a short connection.

- Because the airport is smaller and closer to the city centre, travellers departing Wellington don't need to build the same margins into travel time. Queues are shorter and passengers can check their baggage through to the final destination.
- As a compact city, Wellington is easier to navigate around.

Travel within New Zealand

Visitors will find it easy to travel within New Zealand to the most common destinations. Our public transport system and road networks are reliable and efficient. We are a nation well used to travel, and our domestic air, train, bus and taxi systems are well coordinated around the country. Ferry services from Wellington connect the North and South Islands for travellers with vehicles.

Touring map of New Zealand <http://businessevents.newzealand.com/MediaLibraries/TNZ.BusEvts/Resources/PDFs/Regional%20Factsheets/New-Zealand-Touring-Map.PDF>

Local transport

All of the proposed conference venues in both cities are in central locations and close to a range of hotels. Attendees will be able to walk or taxi with ease from their accommodation to the conference venue. There are regular commuter rail and bus services available for those wishing to explore our cities beyond the central business district.

Pōwhiri and networking event

The Ministry of Health proposes to make a material contribution to the event by arranging a pōwhiri or Māori welcome for the opening day. We would also host an evening networking event.

The following are the likely venues under the Wellington option.

- Te Marae at Te Papa, with space for 300 people, where the pōwhiri would be performed.
- Signs of a Nation, Ngā Tohu Kotahitanga, the exhibition on our country's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, and the best space in Te Papa for an evening welcome.
- The Beehive (pictured on page 3) is another possible evening venue, where delegates would be hosted by a Member of Parliament.



Te Marae at Te Papa



Signs of a Nation



Mokau, North Island

Contact people

Our General Assembly and Member Forum representatives will be your contact people in planning the event.

Dr Stewart Jessamine

IHTSDO General Assembly representative for New Zealand
Group Manager, Medsafe, Ministry of Health

Alastair Kenworthy

IHTSDO Member Forum representative for New Zealand
Principal Sector Architect, Health IT Investment and Standards, Ministry of Health

Tracy Thompson

IHTSDO Member Forum representative for New Zealand
Senior Analyst, Classification and Terminology, National Collections and Reporting, Ministry of Health
SNOMED National Release Centre representative