



**Scott Arrol's opening speech at the NZHIT event held in the Grand Hall,
Parliament Buildings, 6.00pm October 16 2019**

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING ENABLED BY DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Thanks very much everyone for joining us here today. It's great to see so many of you here for our 3rd annual member's networking event at the Grand Hall. Originally this event was going to happen in March but the tragic events in Christchurch understandably meant that it was postponed until now. Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Louisa Wall for her support as our event host for tonight. Louisa is the MP for Manurewa and Chair of the Health Committee and we will be hearing from her shortly. I'd also like to thank those MPs who have taken time from their busy schedules to join us tonight.

The theme for tonight's event is focused on mental health and wellness enabled by digital technology. This aligns with NZHIT's vision of world class health and wellbeing for all New Zealanders fully enabled by digital technology and our purpose of providing an open environment that enables a coordinated, informed voice that maximises health, social and economic value for New Zealand through digital technology.

Our members play an increasingly important role in enabling the delivery of health and disability services both in New Zealand and overseas. More than ever the future demands that there is a cross-sector and systems approach where collaboration, partnerships and operating within a fair and competitive marketplace is essential.

Over the past 5 years NZHIT has grown in numbers, strength, relevancy and influence through the engagement and commitment of its members. The next 5 years are going to present a number of opportunities and risks, which will mean that everyone in the room tonight will be faced with considerable change in the way you work, the way services are developed, and delivered, and how your business models will have to change to enable you to swim rather than sink.

In this regard, NZHIT has commenced the process of creating a New Zealand Health Opportunities Study that will provide an industry developed report. This report will unify our members voice particularly in those areas where digital technology can fully enable world class health and wellbeing. There are barriers preventing the level of full enablement that we all know can be achieved. The future will also have some burning platforms that this report and NZHIT will aim to position its members to be aware of and make decisions that see them able to survive and thrive.

Yesterday in Wellington we held the first of three workshops for members to learn more about nHIP and to begin the study's development process. There are two more workshops to be held in October, next week in Christchurch on the 22nd and Auckland on the 23rd, you can register to attend these by going to the events page on the NZHIT website. More information and engagement opportunities will flow from these workshops.

Now is the time for you all to engage, commit and contribute – use your membership to be involved in crafting the future. We work hard on your behalf and my call to action for you is to take advantage of the opportunities we provide and move from being reactive to proactive.

The next time I will see many of you is during Digital Health Week NZ in Hamilton and please make sure to register for the Women in HealthTech breakfast on Thursday 21st, the "Think Global – Act Local" workshop on the 20th and of course our AGM just prior to lunch on the 20th. All of which you can find out more about and register from the website.

Thank you once again for joining us tonight and it is now my pleasure to welcome Louisa Wall to the stage to welcome us as our host for tonight.

Notes to speech:

- Scott Arrol is the CEO of [NZ Health IT \(NZHIT\)](#) and this event is one of many organised by NZHIT for its members and other key stakeholders to provide information, knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.
- This is the third time that NZHIT has held this annual event in the [Grand Hall](#) at the Parliament Buildings in Wellington. Each event has had a specific theme with the most recent being focussed on how digital technology can enable mental health and wellness services for people living in New Zealand.
- NZHIT's host was [Louisa Wall](#), MP for Manurewa (Labour Party) and the Chair of the [Health Select Committee](#).
- Other MPs who attended all or some of the event were [Simon O'Connor](#), MP for Tamaki (National Party), and [Dr Shane Reti](#), MP for Whangarei (National Party) and the Deputy Chair of the Health Select Committee.
- The keynote speakers for this event were –
 - Robyn Shearer, Deputy Director General, Mental Health & Addiction, Ministry of Health
 - Tane Cassidy, CEO, Health Promotion Agency
 - Professor (Adj) Anil Thapliyal, eMental Health Lead, Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, AUT and CEO, HealthTRx
 - Darren Douglass, Group Manager, Digital Strategy and Investment, Ministry of Health
- The event was co-sponsored by the following NZHIT members –
 - [Health Metrics](#), represented by Scott Herschberger, National Manager Health Metrics NZ
 - [Healthpoint Limited](#), represented by Kate Rhind, Managing Director
- Approximately 80 people attended this event mostly being NZHIT members and other invited guests.

For more information about NZHIT's activities, events, membership and representations please contact Scott Arrol in the first instance – scott@nzhit.nz or +64 21 414631