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ACT Party can't deliver promised funding boost



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A capitation boost was promised by ACT's former health spokesperson Brooke van Velden and leader David Seymour, making the announcement in the carpark of a general practice in Auckland, earlier this year

“At the moment, it is not government policy”

The ACT Party election promise to boost patient capitation payments by an average of 13 per cent has fallen through.

“We weren’t able to get it through the (coalition) negotiations,” says Steve Clarke, ACT leader David Seymour’s press secretary, who was speaking to *New Zealand Doctor Rata Aotearoa* from Government House as the new government was being sworn.

“At the moment, it is not government policy,” Mr Clarke says.

Sidenotes

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Promises, promises

The estimated \$163 million funding boost for 2023/24 “with ongoing increases in outyears” was the centrepiece of the party’s healthcare platform which was announced in August by then health spokesperson Brooke van Velden.

The policy was a response to the \$137 million shortfall in payments to general practice identified by Sapere review released in December 2022, Ms van Velden said.

It was also an early election promise, **announced in May as part of ACT’s alternative budget**, when Mr Seymour said it was “time GPs are actually treated like they’re an important part of the system”.

The coalition partner also campaigned on **four other health promises**, with only two – easing the registration path for doctors trained in comparable systems and reviewing healthcare occupational licensing – featuring in its agreement with National.

Ms van Velden was today sworn in as the Government’s minister of internal affairs, workplace relations and safety.

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