

Media release
31 March 2020

New non-government initiative aims to connect makers and purchasers of healthcare-related resources and equipment

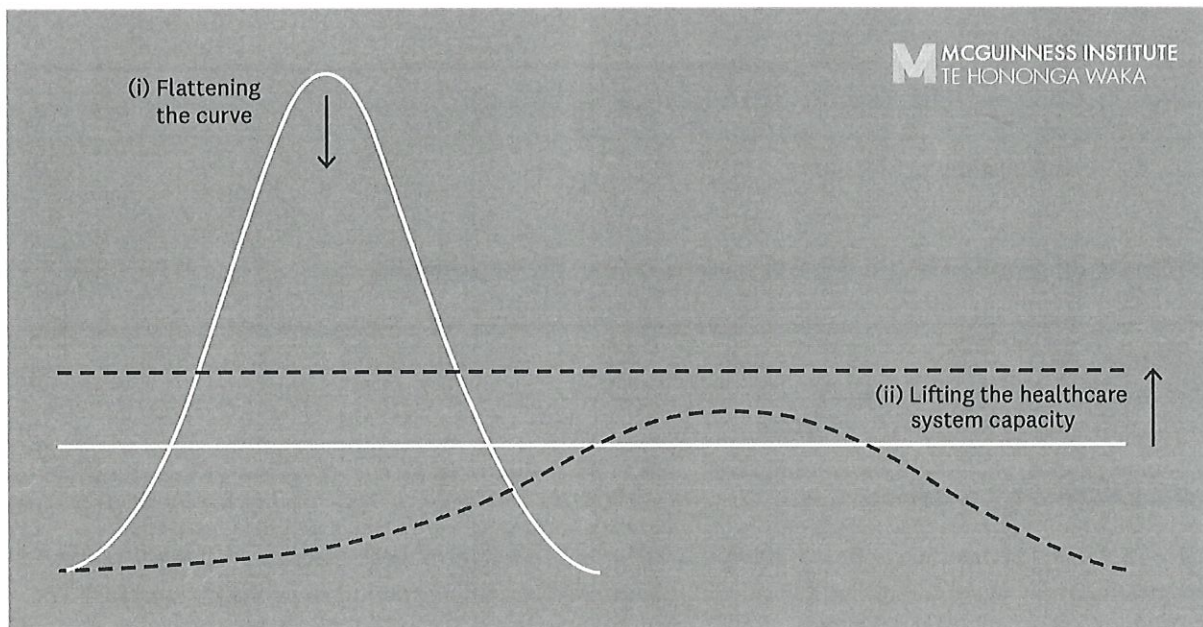
New Zealand makers, purchasers and suppliers of healthcare-related resources and equipment are being asked to raise their hand by a local not-for-profit wanting to help accelerate connections in the healthcare equipment supply chain.

COVID-19
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31 March
2020

The McGuinness Institute has established a non-government initiative *SupplyNZ: Winning the war on COVID-19* (supplynz.org), to build connections and capabilities in case the nationwide lockdown is not enough to stop the spread of the virus and results in gaps in supply chains.

Institute chief executive Wendy McGuinness notes that 'In addition to flattening the curve to stop the spread of the virus, it is important to elevate the New Zealand healthcare system's capacity to cope with increased demand on its resources – in particular personal protective equipment (PPE) specifically required for those who are at risk of exposure to the coronavirus.'

These two strategies are illustrated in the graph below:



The idea for the SupplyNZ initiative was sparked when an engineer who was keen to contribute to the medical ventilator gap contacted the Institute. This and other examples have since illustrated to the Institute the power of connecting people, McGuinness says.

'Our primary goal is to connect local businesses who have resources to either manufacture or supply additional PPE and medical resources to the healthcare professionals who need it,' she says.

McGuinness believes that the Government's National Reserve Supply will be sufficient for the current level of outbreak. However, she adds that this may not be the case in the future.

'Through *SupplyNZ* we have provided a list of over 30 products, including PPE, that might be required if self-isolation doesn't work.'

‘What we’re trying to do is stay one step ahead and ensure we have a network of local businesses that we can mobilise in the event New Zealand’s supply chain comes under pressure’.

McGuinness has been working alongside a number of New Zealand business people on a diverse range of initiatives to fight the spread of COVID-19 and build our healthcare system capacity at a time of great uncertainty and change.

‘We’re in a national state of emergency where a national response is required – the responsibility to act sits with all of us.’

A registration form has been set up on the *SupplyNZ: Winning the war on COVID-19* website where people and businesses can register their area of interest. The *SupplyNZ Register* will be updated daily. In addition, the Institute is working on a stocktake and is modelling supply chain requirements to identify possible gaps. This information will also be available on the *SupplyNZ* website and updated regularly.

ENDS

For more information on the initiative SupplyNZ: Winning the war on COVID-19

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About McGuinness Institute

The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future for New Zealand. The Institute applies hindsight, insight and foresight to explore major challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand over the long term, and has an interest in low probability, high magnitude events such as pandemics. It has closely followed the COVID-19 pandemic response.