



HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY  
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND  
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Dear Colleague,

I would like to tell you about a rare opportunity to hear and talk with one of the world's most respected and forward-thinking health communicators, American surgeon and writer Dr Atul Gawande.

Dr Gawande, author of bestsellers such as *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right* and, most recently, *Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine, and What Matters in the End*, will be headlining a day-long forum for people working in the health and disability and aged care sectors.

The forum is in Wellington on Monday 18 May and is being hosted by the Health Quality & Safety Commission. It will focus on teamwork and communication, and aged and end of life care, and follows Dr Gawande giving last year's prestigious Reith Lectures for the BBC.

In *Being Mortal*, Dr Gawande argues for innovative approaches to aged and end of life care, and supports a greater emphasis on the wishes of patients and their families instead of being hidebound by inflexible medical and aged care systems.

Among those joining Dr Gawande for the forum are Professor Jonathon Gray, director of the Ko Awatea centre for health system innovation and improvement; Dr Brian Ensor, director of palliative care at Wellington's Mary Potter Hospice; Dr Geoff Green, geriatrician and clinical head of the service for older people at Counties Manukau Health; and Dr Barry Snow, consultant neurologist at Auckland City Hospital.

The forum is at the Visa Platinum Gallery, Te Papa, Wellington, 9.30am-4.30pm, Monday 18 May. The fee is \$280. Booking is essential from [www.hqsc.govt.nz/atul-gawande](http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/atul-gawande) (where you can also see the forum programme) or by emailing [info@hqsc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hqsc.govt.nz).

Prior to the forum, Dr Gawande will be appearing at the Auckland Writers Festival. He is in conversation with Commission board member Dr David Galler, an intensive care specialist, on Saturday 16 May, 5.30pm; and in a panel conversation on the future on Sunday 17 May, 3pm, both in the Aotea Centre's ASB Theatre. Tickets, priced from \$15, go on public sale at 9am on Thursday 19 March from [www.ticketmaster.co.nz](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz).

The Commission is very excited to be hosting the forum with Dr Gawande and I urge you to pass on news of it to anyone you think would be interested in this wonderful opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Janice Wilson

**Dr Janice Wilson**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Health Quality & Safety Commission**