



I had the privilege to undertake the Comparative Health Care Systems paper at the University of New South Wales in the first semester of 2025. The 10-week course was fully online, and it furthered my understanding of different health care systems around the world. The course provided me with opportunities to analyse and compare different health systems, against low, middle and high-income countries.

It was interesting to see how the entire health care system is interconnected, and that there are many factors that influence how healthcare is delivered and prioritised. The course allowed me to examine the constitutional, legal, economic, social, epidemiological and political environments within which health systems operate.

In a group assignment working with different health care professionals, we examined health reforms and their impact in a country. We chose Canada, and a medicine-related reform was the provision of insulin pump therapy compared to multi-dosed injections for patients with type-1 diabetes. Despite evidence of improved quality of life and reduced rate of severe hypoglycaemia, insulin pump usage is limited due to cost. To address this, government-funded insulin pump programmes were introduced, providing funding to eligible patients since 2006. While funding increased the rate of insulin pump use, it mainly benefited those of higher socioeconomic status. It did not necessarily improve access for those of lower income brackets and was unable to contribute to addressing the existing inequities of the health system. The removal of financial barriers was insufficient to overcome challenges to insulin pump use, and alternative interventions were required to ensure equitable access among underserved communities.

The course content elevated my thinking around the different contributors to improving health care, which is never linear or straightforward, and broadened my understanding of health care systems.

This elective course is one of the papers that build my Master of Health Leadership and Management degree. I'd like to acknowledge and thank NZHPA for supporting my attendance to this course.

Ngaa mihi,

Jacky Chan

Health New Zealand, Counties Manukau

[Jacky.chan@middlemore.co.nz](mailto:Jacky.chan@middlemore.co.nz)