

30 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email s 9(2)(a)  
Ref H202203869

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 12 March 2022 for information regarding New Zealand's abortion counselling standard. I shall respond to each part of your request in turn.

*The name of the external agency appointed to develop an abortion counselling standard?*

Allen + Clarke (Allen + Clarke Policy and Regulatory Specialists Ltd) is the agency that is developing the New Zealand Aotearoa Standard for Abortion Counselling.

*Are the Family Planning Association and Magma Healthcare Ltd providing assistance in developing the standard?*

Family Planning and Magma do not have representatives on the working group but will use the standard for their counselling service which is due to be available from July 2022.

*Will the working group providing advice to the external agency developing the counselling standard include representatives from pro-life organisations in New Zealand?*

The working group includes social workers and abortion counsellors who currently provide abortion counselling or who may provide abortion counselling in the future. It includes both those within district health board settings, in community settings and counselling and social work representative groups. There are no representatives from pro-life organisations. One of the aims of the standard is to ensure services provide unbiased advice and options-based counselling for those considering abortion.

*Will information on the abortion pill reversal protocol that has saved the lives of more than 3,000 unborn babies internationally, be provided to women considering an early medical abortion?*

The New Zealand Aotearoa Abortion Clinical Guidelines provide clear information that abortions cannot be reversed and that this practice is not supported in New Zealand. The Abortion Clinical Guidelines are publicly available on the Ministry's website on the following link:

[www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/new\\_zealand\\_aotearoa\\_abortion\\_clinical\\_guideline.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/new_zealand_aotearoa_abortion_clinical_guideline.pdf).

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Prestidge', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Emma Prestidge  
**Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety**  
**Health System Improvement and Innovation**