



Communications pack

PROGRAMME NAME: Putting patients first: Modernising health workforce regulation


21/03/2025

PURPOSE

This communications plan supports the publication of a discussion document, *Putting patients first: Modernising health workforce regulation*. This will be accompanied by a 4-week engagement period in March–April, focused on getting information to patients and giving them the opportunity to give feedback via the Ministry of Health’s online consultation platform.

This pack includes key messages, a timeline of communication milestones, and draft materials to support reactive and proactive communications to the public and key stakeholders.

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FACT-SHEET

The future of health workforce regulation

Description

The Government is reviewing health workforce regulation to help make sure all New Zealanders can access timely, quality health care. Everyone can have their say through an online consultation platform hosted by the Ministry of Health.

Health workforce regulation describes the rules that make sure people get safe and quality health care. It can sometimes feel distant from everyday health care, but it has real impacts on the system's ability to deliver to New Zealanders. Better regulation that reduces bureaucracy and puts patients first will help reduce health system pressures.

Expected benefits

- A patient-centred healthcare system supported by a simpler, more efficient, and modern regulation.
- New Zealanders can access safe and high-quality healthcare delivered by health professionals with the right training and skills.
- Patients will be able to receive the care they need, because our skilled and dedicated health professionals will be better able to use their full range of skills to keep New Zealanders well, and to help them get better when they are unwell.
- An innovative and productive health workforce supported by right-sized regulation.
- Increased patient choice over time with a better supply and variety of health professionals.

Facts and figures

- The law behind health workforce regulation (the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003) is now more than 20 years old.
- The health workforce is regulated by 18 different bodies that are each responsible for regulating a different profession (such as nurses, doctors or midwives). Some professions are not regulated.

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NEWS ARTICLE FOR MINISTRY OF HEALTH WEBSITE

Public consultation begins on modernising health workforce regulation

The Ministry of Health has opened consultation today on health workforce regulation.

Minister of Health Hon Simeon Brown has announced the Government is reviewing the way health professions are regulated, to provide timely, quality access to health care for all New Zealanders and to better reflect the way health care is delivered today.

Health regulations are the rules that ensure New Zealanders get safe and quality health care when they see health professionals. The current Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 is now over 20 years old.

As part of this review, the Ministry of Health has published a discussion document, 'Putting Patients First: Modernising health workforce regulation'. [add link]

The Ministry is now inviting New Zealanders to share their views on health workforce regulation through its online consultation portal. The consultation closes on Monday 28 April.

This provides an opportunity for the public to have their say on how New Zealand regulates its health workforce.

Feedback on the options outlined in the discussion document will inform the Ministry's advice to the Government on possible changes to health workforce regulation.

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) is the law that provides a framework for the regulation of health practitioners. Its purpose is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure the ongoing competence of health practitioners.

The Act provides for the regulation of recognised health professions. At present, New Zealand has 18 health regulators, known as responsible authorities.

To help prepare the discussion document, the Ministry looked at international best practice on health workforce regulatory systems and clinical safety, and considered how these models could be adapted to suit New Zealand's unique needs.

The Ministry also held an initial series of workshops and meetings with key health sector stakeholders in 2024. These included responsible authorities, professional associations, medical colleges and unions. The Ministry will continue to engage with the sector.

CITIZEN SPACE LANDING PAGE

Overview

The Ministry of Health is inviting New Zealanders to share their views on health workforce regulation by Monday 28 April.

On 25 March 2025, the Ministry published a discussion document, *Putting patients first: Modernising health workforce regulation*. [\[ADD LINK\]](#)

How to have your say

There are a couple of ways in which you can provide feedback.

You can:

- complete this online survey – use the 'Online survey' link below to begin or,
- emailing [\[add email address here\]](#) to share your thoughts.

You can choose which questions you want to respond to.

You will be asked for your email at the end of the survey, but this is only to provide you with a PDF copy of your submission. We do not collect these email addresses.

You don't have to complete the consultation all at once. You can use the 'Save and come back later' button at the bottom of each question page. You will be emailed a link that you can use to return to your partially completed submission.

The consultation closes on Monday 28 April.

Contact: [\[add email address here\]](#)

Publishing submissions and the Official Information Act

[Publishing submissions](#)

We may publish the submissions from this consultation, but we will only publish your submission if you give permission. We will remove personal details such as contact details and the names of individuals. You will be asked about this in the questions in the Citizen Space survey. If you are submitting by email, please include in your submission whether the Ministry may or may not publish your submission.

Official Information Act responses

Your submission will be subject to requests made under the Official Information Act (even if it hasn't been published). You can tell us if you want to have your personal details removed from any Official Information Act responses. You will be asked about this in the questions in the Citizen Space survey. If you are submitting by email, please include in your submission whether you would like your personal details removed from any Official Information Act responses.

Use of AI

To improve how we review submissions, the Ministry of Health may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to help identify important themes and trends. AI will assist with analysis, but privacy and confidentiality will still be protected under the Privacy Act 2020 and the Official Information Act 1982.