



# Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003: Policy Approval for Amendments

Portfolio                      Health

On 20 August 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the Government Policy Statement on Health 2024-2027 includes the review of regulatory settings, in order to retain, value and recognise the health workforce;
- 2        **agreed** to amend the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 to:
  - 2.1      provide that health workforce regulatory authorities will be subject to the accountability and directive requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004 as if they were Crown Agents;
  - 2.2      provide that there shall be a ministerial committee, constituted similarly to the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, that can review and overturn decisions by a regulatory authority to refuse registration or put conditions on practice;
  - 2.3      require the Director-General of Health to report to the Minister of Health on the effectiveness of the above changes within five years of their commencement, with the report to be tabled in the House of Representatives;
- 3        **agreed** to the detailed changes set out in Annex 2 to the paper under SOU-25-SUB-0116;
- 4        **authorised** the Minister of Health to make minor and technical amendments through the drafting process;
- 5        **authorised** the Minister of Health to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions.

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendance: (see over)**

**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Nicola Willis  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Karen Chhour  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon Scott Simpson

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for SOU  
Office of the Minister of Education

PROACTIVELY RELEASED