



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Health**

On 2 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 5 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (to be referred to select committee before the 2026 General Election);
- 2 **noted** that the Bill will amend the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) to:
 - 2.1 provide that responsible authorities (health workforce regulators) will be subject to accountability and directive requirements similar to Crown Agents;
 - 2.2 provide for a ministerial committee that can review and overturn decisions by a responsible authority to refuse an individual's registration or put conditions on their practice;
- 3 **noted** that the Bill also includes a range of changes to improve the functioning of the Act, as outlined in Annex 1 to the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0052;
- 4 **noted** that:
 - 4.1 in August 2025, Cabinet agreed amendments to the Act and authorised the Minister of Health (the Minister) to make minor and technical amendments through the drafting process [SOU-25-MIN-0116];
 - 4.2 the Minister has taken decisions under the above authority on the proposals in Annex 1;
- 5 **approved** the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill [PCO 24509/2.8] for introduction;

6 **agreed** that:

- 6.1 the Bill be introduced by 8 April 2026;
- 6.2 the Government propose that the Bill be referred to the Health Select Committee for consideration for four months.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG

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