



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Paramedic Regulation Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Portfolio                      Health

On 3 April 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      the purpose of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise;
  - 1.2      the expanded ambulance model of care requires paramedics to operate as independent practitioners in patient assessment and decision-making and be regulated under the Act in a comparable way to other health practitioners;
- 2        **noted** that regulating the paramedic profession under the Act will better protect the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that paramedics are competent and fit to practise;
- 3        **noted** that the Ministry of Health was required under the Act to consult on Ambulance New Zealand's proposal to regulate the paramedic profession, and that there is general agreement among submitters on the proposal;
- 4        **noted** that the estimated cost of regulating the paramedic profession is up to \$1.42 million in the first year of implementation for 1,400 registered paramedics in 2020/21, decreasing to approximately \$1.17 million in subsequent years;
- 5        **noted** that the Ministry of Health will provide up to \$0.3 million per annum, and the Accident Compensation Corporation will provide up to \$0.3 million per annum, from existing baselines, to publicly-funded emergency ambulance services to cover their employees' costs of paramedic regulation;
- 6        **noted** that the remaining estimated costs of implementing paramedic regulation will be up to \$0.82 million in the first year and up to \$0.57 million in subsequent years, which will be met by the employers of emergency ambulance services (primarily St John and Wellington Free Ambulance) and individual paramedic health practitioners;
- 7        **noted** that establishing a new responsible authority, the Paramedic Council, with secretariat support from the Nursing Council of New Zealand, is the most cost effective governance model to regulate the paramedic profession;

- 8 **agreed** that an Order in Council be made under the Act to:
- 8.1 designate the paramedic profession as a health profession;
  - 8.2 establish a new responsible authority, the Paramedic Council, to regulate the paramedic profession, with secretariat support provided by the Nursing Council of New Zealand;
- 9 **noted** that implementation will not occur until funding implications with the sector are resolved;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Health to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decision in paragraph 8.

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Tracey Martin  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Julie Anne Genter  
Jan Logie, MP

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Health

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Office of the Chair  
Officials Committee for SWC