

**Regulating the paramedic workforce under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 - discussion questions**

**Questions about the primary criteria for regulation**

1. Do you agree that the paramedic workforce provides a health service as defined under the HPCA Act, and poses a risk of harm to the health and safety of the public?

☒ Yes

No

2. Do you agree with the consultation document's description of the nature and severity of the risk of harm posed by the paramedic workforce? If not, please provide comment.

☒ Yes

No

Comment

3. Do you consider there is a high frequency of harm being caused by the practice of the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Comment

NZ Paramedics are well trained and maintain a high level of skill maintenance.

4. Are you aware of any instances of harm to patients being caused by the paramedic workforce? If so, please provide further information.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Comment

5. If you are a non-government funded ambulance provider, does your workforce practise high-risk interventions? Please provide comment about your answer. Refer to Tables 4 and 5 (page 10) of the consultation document.

Question not applicable to respondent

Yes

☒ No

Comment

The NZ Fire Service focuses on first response in support of St John and Wellington Free Ambulance

6. Do you consider that, under the Ministry's guidelines, it is in the public's interest to regulate the paramedic workforce under the HPCA Act?

☒ Yes

No

Comment

To protect Patients and their welfare by ensuring registered paramed respond to calls for medical assistance.

9. Should the ambulance sector consider implementing a simple register of paramedics suitable/unsuitable to practise instead of regulation under the HPCA Act?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Comment

10. Are there other non-legislative regulatory mechanisms that could be established to minimise the risks of harm of the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer

☐ Yes

☒ No

Comment

The NZ Fire Service works in support of St John and Wellington Free Ambulance. Therefore because these agencies support the HPCA Act approach so does the NZ Fire Service.

11. Do you agree that regulation under the HPCA Act is possible for the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Comment

A regulated workforce, one that subscribes to the HPCA Act ensures visibility and focuses on an accepted minimum level of patient care.

12. If you are an ambulance organisation or ambulance provider, do you consider that the paramedic workforce:

(a) understands the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act? Refer to Appendix Four of the Consultation Document for the list of responsibilities.

(b) is prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council?

(c) understands the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance?

Question not applicable to respondent

Yes to Q12 (a) - the paramedic workforce understands the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act.

No to Q12 (a) - the paramedic workforce does not understand the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act.

Yes to Q12 (b) - the paramedic workforce is prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council.

No to Q12 (b) - the paramedic workforce is not prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council.

Yes to Q12 (c) - the paramedic workforce understands the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance.

No to Q12 (c) - the paramedic workforce does not understand the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance.

Comment

13. Do you have anything to add to the consultation document's list of benefits and negative impacts of regulating the paramedic workforce under the HPCA Act? Refer to Tables 10 and 11 (pages 17 and 18) of the consultation document.

☐ Yes  
☒ No

Comment

14. Do you consider that the benefits to the public in regulating the paramedic workforce outweigh the negative impact of regulation? Please provide comment about your answer.

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Comment

Regulation provides patient confidence regarding  
skill level and standard of care.

15. Which stakeholder group are you making a submission from?

Ambulance provider (emergency medical transport, non-emergency medical transport, first-aid cover for events)

Employer or provider of paramedic services for industry settings (oil rigs, film sets, ships)

Ambulance union or ambulance professional organisation

Aeromedical provider

Emergency response stakeholder 

Emergency Department Clinical Director

Responsible authority

Tertiary education organisation

Other health stakeholder

Name of organisation

New Zealand Fire Service.