

Submission Booklet

The Ministry of Health invites you to submit your views on the proposal that TCM become a regulated profession under the HPCA Act.

To assist with this process, the Ministry has drawn up the following questions, which are intended to tease out the issues that need to be considered. The guidelines for interpreting the criteria in Appendix 1 may assist you in answering the questions. You may wish to address all or only some of these questions.

1. Is TCM a health service, as defined by the HPCA Act? (Note: the Act defines a health service as 'a service provided for the purpose of assessing, improving, protecting, or managing the physical or mental health of individuals or groups of individuals'.)
2. Are practitioners of TCM generally agreed on the qualifications required to deliver the health services they provide?
3. Is there a risk of harm to the public from the practice of TCM?
4. If so, what are the nature, frequency, severity and potential impact of risks to the public? What is the likelihood of the harm occurring?
5. Other than on the basis of risk of harm, is it in the public interest that the profession of TCM be regulated?
6. Are practising TCM practitioners generally agreed on the standards that TCM practitioners are expected to meet?
7. Are practising TCM practitioners generally agreed on the competencies for scopes of practice for TCM?
8. What qualifications are generally held by members of the profession, and what is the degree of uniformity in qualifications across members?
9. Does your organisation accord any standing or status to the profession of TCM, or to those who practise as TCM practitioners?

Your submissions should be addressed to:

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Workforce Intelligence and Planning
Health Workforce New Zealand
National Health Board
Ministry of Health
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WELLINGTON 6145

Please note that all correspondence and submissions on this matter may be the subject of a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). If there is any part of your correspondence that you consider could properly be withheld under the OIA, please include comment to that effect and give reasons why you would want it withheld.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 19 August 2011.