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**Submission on:**  
**Proposed Medicinal Cannabis Scheme**

**Submission To:** Ministry of Health  
Wellington

*The College of Nurses is a professional body of New Zealand registered nurses and Nurse Practitioners from all regions within New Zealand and specialties both within and outside of the District Health Board ('DHB') setting. It provides a voice for the nursing profession and professional commentary on issues that affect nurses, and also the health of the whole community, aiming for excellence in nursing practice and health care delivery which addresses disparities in health.*

The College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) (the College) is pleased to have the opportunity to submit a response to the consultation on the proposed Medicinal Cannabis Scheme.

The College is aware that many people seek to achieve pain control through the use of unlicensed cannabis products that are neither regulated nor produced to an accepted quality standard. As such we are supportive of the proposals to improve access to a range of quality products subject to appropriate regulation.

As we have consistently argued, the ability of nurse practitioners to prescribe prescription only medicinal products improves access to medicines and improves continuity of care. We are therefore most supportive of the proposal that they will be able to prescribe CBDs. We do not support specialist only prescribing.

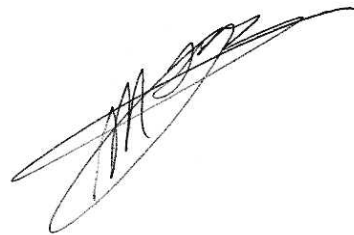
Our main focus is on accessibility to quality controlled medicinal cannabis products, especially through nurse practitioner prescribers. The College is therefore pleased to see an emphasis on cultivation and production of cannabis plants and their derivatives as a contributor to our national economy and the key role that tangata whenua might play in this regard.

Finally, we would suggest that attention needs to be given as to the descriptions of potential prescribers of medicinal cannabis products (CBDs) as on occasion this is lacking in clarity. In some sections of the consultation document nurse practitioners are omitted whereas the obvious intent is for them to be included as prescribers.

Yours sincerely



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Executive Director



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