



3 September 2013

Hon Tony Ryall
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā Koe Minister

Re: Medicines Amendment Bill

We are writing to you as a group of interested nursing organisations to ask that you give priority to the third reading of the Medicines Amendment Bill which was introduced to the House in November 2011. We collectively support the move of Nurse Practitioners to the authorised prescriber category and also look forward to the extension of prescribing rights to some registered nurses.

This legislation has the potential to make a difference in reducing the significant sociological and financial costs of health disparities, because it will determine the prescribing regime governing access to medicines. In determining the outcome of this Bill, it is important to keep in mind the hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders whose lives could be significantly improved and extended if they had access to appropriate medicines.

Nurses - in particular Nurse Practitioners who have a minimum of four years specialty practice, post-graduate education and clinical experience, and other advanced practise nurses - are consistently frustrated by their inability to practise to the full extent of their scope because they cannot access appropriate medicines for clients in a timely and efficient manner.

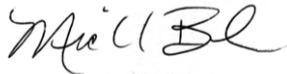
Time and resources are wasted on duplicative and circuitous processes, which compromise, rather than improve health care. Additional appointments with doctors to sign off on routine repeat prescriptions, for example, are a common deterrent for the most impoverished and isolated New Zealanders for whom the potential to benefit from medicines for chronic diseases like diabetes and asthma is significant.

We urge you to support the potential for significant improvement in health outcomes and health gain for all New Zealanders by bringing this Bill to the attention of the House and endorsing this important legislative change.

Nāku noa, nā



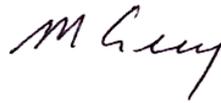
Professor Jenny Carryer
Executive Director, College of Nurses, Aotearoa



Michal Boyd
Chair, Nurse Practitioners New Zealand



Kerri Nuku
Kaiwhakahaere, NZNO



Marion Guy
President, NZNO