

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister of Health
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation



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Tēnā koe John

21 APR 2023

Health workforce wellbeing

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 March 2023 regarding the National Ethics Advisory Committee's (NEAC's) concern for the wellbeing of the health workforce. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

I acknowledge NEAC's concern for the wellbeing of the health workforce as an urgent ethical issue. I agree that the current health workforce requires clinical ethics strengthening and acknowledge that there is limited accessibility to Clinical Ethics Support Services in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The health workforce plays a vital role in order for our health system to deliver high quality health care to New Zealanders and achieve pae ora, which is a key priority area for this Government. You may be aware that Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) is developing a Health Workforce Strategy to address workforce issues and ensure wider settings enable a sustainable, representative, and responsible health workforce that can meet the future needs of all New Zealanders.

Frontline staff and key health stakeholders have voiced similar concerns during engagement between Manatū Hauora and the health workforce sector, particularly surrounding the current system pressures on health workforce wellbeing. These issues will be considered as part of the Health Workforce Strategy and implementation of workforce initiatives.

Manatū Hauora, Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand, and Te Aka Whai Ora - Māori Health Authority are working together to continue building a robust health workforce programme that will support and empower the existing and future health workforce.

I note your request to meet to discuss the NEAC's current work programme. I look forward to reviewing this with you and to discuss health workforce matters. My office will be in touch with you to arrange a time to meet in May 2023.

Thank you again for writing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ayesha Verrall'.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Minister of Health