

# Hon Peeni Henare

MP for Tāmaki Makaurau

Minister for ACC

Minister of Forestry

Minister of Tourism

Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister for the Environment

Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)



Professor John McMillan  
Chair, National Ethics Advisory Committee  
NEAC@health.govt.nz  
**05 MAY 2023**

Ref. PH09275

Tēnā koe Professor McMillan

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 April 2023 to the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall and myself. I am responding to you as the subject matter you raise falls under my portfolio responsibilities. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns.

I commend the mahi Health and Disability Ethics Committees (HDEC) undertake in order to provide quality and accessible treatments for New Zealanders, and HDECs contributions to Aotearoa New Zealand's health and disability research industry.

I acknowledge your concern about low membership levels across the four HDECs. I also note the National Ethics Advisory Committees suggestion to prioritise the application process for appointments and ensure the HDECs have an adequate number of members with a high level of expertise.

As you might be aware, there is an active appointments process currently under way for the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology, the Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology and the HDECs. I anticipate being able to finalise these appointments shortly and trust this will alleviate the issues you have outlined.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns. I wish you the best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peeni Henare'.

Hon Peeni Henare  
**Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)**