



**National Ethics Advisory Committee**

**18 December 2024**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

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## Attendees

Dr Elizabeth Fenton (Chair), Dr Lindsey Te Ata o Tū MacDonald (Deputy Chair), Julia Black, Maree Candish, Edmond Carrucan, Associate Professor Vanessa Jordan, Dr Filippo Katavake-McGrath, Dr Fiona Miles, Dr Tania Moerenhout, Dr Hansa Patel, Dr Karaitiana Taiuru.

The meeting was opened with a karakia and members approved the agenda.

## Chair's update

The Chair welcomed the new members, and the group engaged in whakawhanaungatanga. The Chair will meet with the Minister in February and discuss the NEAC work programme.

## Declaration of Interests

Members noted the declarations of interests and were asked to notify the Secretariat of any amendments.

No new declarations of interest were raised.

### **Action:**

- Secretariat to update the Declaration of Interests for the next meeting.

## Approval of minutes from NEAC's 24 October 2024 meeting

Members approved the minutes from NEAC's meeting on 24 October 2024 subject to minor amendments.

### **Action:**

- Secretariat to amend the October 2024 minutes and place on NEAC's webpage.

## Actions Arising

The Actions Arising and completed were noted and one minor revision was requested.

### **Action:**

- Secretariat to update actions arising for the next meeting.

## Secretariat's Update

The Manager, Ethics discussed resourcing of the Secretariat and changes to Secretariat staffing.

The Secretariat provided an update on the progression of the NEAC Annual Report and the Finding Balance Report.

The Chair acknowledged the secretariat's work to complete the reports and provide an accurate record of NEAC's contributions.



The committee discussed the NEAC work programme, and the need for regular horizon scanning to identify priority ethical issues of national significance in the health sector in line with the TOR. This will build on previous work, including six scoping documents prepared by committee members, and presented in the meeting held 24 July 2024. An annual stocktake of priority ethical issues would provide NEAC with a broad view of the health ethics landscape and support prioritisation of work.

**Actions:**

- Secretariat to send the induction pack to existing members (this pack was previously sent to new members).
- Secretariat to add an annual stocktake of health sector priority ethical issues to the forward agenda, with the first discussion scheduled for late 2025. The scoping work completed for the July 2024 meeting will be included with this item.

## NEAC meeting dates 2025

The group agreed dates for five full NEAC meetings in 2025, including one in-person meeting.

A committee member raised a question about NEAC's Terms of Reference (TOR) obligations. The Secretariat noted that the TOR have not been revised since they were developed in 2001 and suggested the TOR be updated to reflect the current operational environment. The Secretariat will work with the Ministry of Health to review the TOR, in consultation with NEAC, in 2025.

**Actions:**

- The Secretariat will send calendar invites to members and arrange travel for the in-person meeting.

## Clinical ethics scoping

The Secretariat provided an overview of the papers. Members discussed the meaning of *innovative treatment* in a clinical context. The group discussed the scoping questions presented in the paper and information that could be drawn on to help the committee scope the work.

The committee discussed the importance of considering te ao Māori approaches and working with Health New Zealand (HNZ), including practicing clinicians, people in clinical governance roles, as well as patients.

A member reported on recent attendance at the Sydney Clinical Ethics Colloquium. The colloquium provided an overview of Australia's approach to clinical ethics.

**Actions:**

- Secretariat to send Julia Black's recently completed Master's thesis to the committee members.
- Secretariat to invite a senior staff member from Health New Zealand to attend the next full meeting to discuss the role of clinical ethics in clinical governance and to ensure HNZ's buy-in to this work.
- Secretariat to invite clinicians and/or patients who have experience with clinical ethical decision-making to share their experiences with the committee at future meetings.
- Members to send relevant frameworks and guidelines to the Secretariat who will share them with members and use them to inform further work.



- Members to email the Secretariat with key stakeholders who could be contacted to inform this work.
- Dr Moerenhout will send a short summary of relevant information from the Sydney Clinical Ethics Colloquium to the committee members.
- The Secretariat will draft an options paper for the next full meeting.

### Any other business

The committee noted the letter of response from the Chair to the New Zealand Blood Service regarding organ donation after assisted dying.

The committee agreed that the process for review and sign-out of all future NEAC correspondence will be agreed during the discussion of each item.

The committee noted the letter from the Health Research Council Ethics Committee regarding the Research Standards. The committee discussed the Research Standards review which is currently on hold due to secretariat capacity. The Chair acknowledged that progressing this work is a goal of the committee.

The Committee discussed MedSafe's recent consultation on proposed updates to the *Guideline on the Regulation of Therapeutic Products in New Zealand: Part 11: Clinical trials – regulatory approval and good clinical practice requirements*. This work is relevant to the NEAC Standards work. Opportunity to comment in this consultation has now closed. NEAC may wish to comment on the proposed Medical Products Bill.

#### **Action:**

- The Secretariat will contact MedSafe and make sure they are aware of the NEAC standards, to consider during their review of clinical trials.
- The Secretariat will notify NEAC when the Medical Products Bill is published so the committee can comment.

**Meeting closed at 12:00pm**