

Regulating the paramedic workforce under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 - discussion questions

Ambulance New Zealand is proposing that the paramedic workforce be regulated under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003. The paramedic workforce consists of at least 1,000 ambulance who practise at the level of a Paramedic or Intensive Care Paramedic for St John, Wellington Free Ambulance, and non-government funded ambulance providers.

You are invited to comment on Ambulance New Zealand's proposal based on the discussion questions posed in the Ministry of Health's consultation document.

The closing date for submissions is 30 June 2017.

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Questions about the primary criteria for regulation

1. Do you agree that the paramedic workforce provides a health service as defined under the HPCA Act, and poses a risk of harm to the health and safety of the public?

Yes

No

2. Do you agree with the consultation document's description of the nature and severity of the risk of harm posed by the paramedic workforce? If not, please provide comment.

Yes

No

Comment

3. Do you consider there is a high frequency of harm being caused by the practice of the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer.

Yes

No

Comment

4. Are you aware of any instances of harm to patients being caused by the paramedic workforce? If so, please provide further information.

Yes

No

Comment

5. If you are a non-government funded ambulance provider, does your workforce practise high-risk interventions? Please provide comment about your answer. Refer to Tables 4 and 5 (page 10) of the consultation document.

Question not applicable to respondent

Yes

No

Comment

6. Do you consider that, under the Ministry's guidelines, it is in the public's interest to regulate the paramedic workforce under the HPCA Act?

Yes

No

Comment

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Questions about the secondary criteria for regulation

7. Do you consider that the existing mechanisms regulating the paramedic workforce are effectively addressing the risks of harm of the paramedic practice? Please provide comment about your answer.

Yes

No

Comment

8. Can the existing mechanisms regulating the paramedic workforce be strengthened without regulation under the HPCA Act? Please provide comment about your answer.

Yes

No

Comment

9. Should the ambulance sector consider implementing a simple register of paramedics suitable/unsuitable to practise instead of regulation under the HPCA Act?

Yes

No

Comment

10. Are there other non-legislative regulatory mechanisms that could be established to minimise the risks of harm of the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer

Yes

No

Comment

11. Do you agree that regulation under the HPCA Act is possible for the paramedic workforce? Please provide comment about your answer.

Yes

No

Comment

12. If you are an ambulance organisation or ambulance provider, do you consider that the paramedic workforce:

(a) understands the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act? *Refer to Appendix Four of the Consultation Document for the list of responsibilities.*

(b) is prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council?

(c) understands the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance?

Question not applicable to respondent

Yes to Q12 (a) - the paramedic workforce understands the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act.

No to Q12 (a) - the paramedic workforce does not understand the individual responsibilities required under the HPCA Act.

Yes to Q12 (b) - the paramedic workforce is prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council.

No to Q12 (b) - the paramedic workforce is not prepared to pay the estimated annual practising certificate fee (and other future regulatory fees) set by the proposed Paramedic Council.

Yes to Q12 (c) - the paramedic workforce understands the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance.

No to Q12 (c) - the paramedic workforce does not understand the purpose of obtaining professional indemnity insurance.

Comment

13. Do you have anything to add to the consultation document's list of benefits and negative impacts of regulating the paramedic workforce under the HPCA Act? Refer to Tables 10 and 11 (pages 17 and 18) of the consultation document.

Yes

No

Comment

14. Do you consider that the benefits to the public in regulating the paramedic workforce outweigh the negative impact of regulation? Please provide comment about your answer.

Yes

No

Comment

15. Which stakeholder group are you making a submission from?

- Ambulance provider (emergency medical transport, non-emergency medical transport, first-aid cover for events)
- Employer or provider of paramedic services for industry settings (oil rigs, film sets, ships)
- Ambulance union or ambulance professional organisation
- Aeromedical provider
- Emergency response stakeholder
- Emergency Department Clinical Director
- Responsible authority
- Tertiary education organisation
- Other health stakeholder

Name of organisation