

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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Ryan McLean
 Sector Policy Directorate
 Ministry of Health
 PO Box 5013
 WELLINGTON

Corporate Office
 Shamrock House
 81-83 Molesworth Street
 PO Box 242
 Wellington, New Zealand
 Ph 04-918 7700
 Facsimile 04-918 7701
 www.acc.co.nz

Dear Ryan

Review of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 – Identification of issues and solutions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the operation of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003 – Identification of issues and solutions.

Overall ACC supports the HPCA Act. ACC believes the Act is working well and meets its purpose of protecting public health and safety by ensuring that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions.

ACC is interested in the HPCA Act because many of the professions regulated under the Act provide treatment to ACC clients.

The HPCA Act requirements provide an additional level of confidence in professionals registered with the registration authorities under the Act. In particular the Act provides a framework to ensure that professionals registered with the authorities established under the Act:

- are competent (including requirements for qualifications, ethical standards and complaint handling)
- work within specified scopes of practice
- are monitored against specific standards.

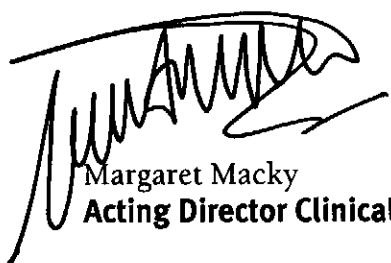
ACC considers the system for establishing and operating regulatory authorities is working well, particularly where the profession and registration authority members work co-operatively together. It may be difficult for authorities to fulfil regulatory functions where factional disagreements occur within an authority or professional group. This issue may become more common as more professions are regulated under the Act and as the composition of Boards change. ACC considers that it would be desirable to develop mechanisms to support registration authorities, to assist them in fulfilling their functions.

We look forward to the opportunity to comment as the review progresses later in the year.



If you have any queries or would like to discuss this submission please contact me on 918 4219 or by email: margaret.macky@acc.co.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Macky', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Margaret Macky
Acting Director Clinical Services