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Ryan McLean/MOH
20/12/07 08:43 am

To hpca@moh.govt.nz
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Feedback on the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act - Review of the HPCA Act page

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19/12/2007 12:35

To <webmanager@moh.govt.nz>
cc
Subject Feedback on the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act - Review of the HPCA Act page

SUBMISSION on the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003
Palmerston North Women's Health Collective Inc.

Section 174

We strongly recommend the strengthening of Section 174 - the conscience clause for health practitioner's who do not want to provide contraception, sterilization or other reproductive health services.

As it currently reads the health practitioner must only "inform" the person who requests the service that he or she can obtain the service from another health professional or from a Family Planning Clinic. "Inform" is not strong enough to ensure patients/consumers are protected. It is also open to different interpretations. We strongly advocate that a health practitioner in such a situation who is refusing to provide the reproductive health service should be required to assist and ensure access to another appropriate practitioner in a timely manner for the provision of the service.

Jean Hera
Community Health Worker/Manager