

31 May 2021

National Ethics Advisory Committee
By email: neac@health.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Review of the National Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the review of the National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research.

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 51,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment matters. NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvements of the health status and outcomes for all Aotearoa New Zealanders through influencing health, employment, and social policy development. Further, we share the intent of the Ministry of Health's definition of equity which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and members' activities.

In the preparation of this submission NZNO has consulted its members and in the absence of specific feedback, concludes that our members do not have any concerns with these new standards. An NZNO representative participated in workshops as these standards were being developed in September 2018 and we are confident that they are contemporary, fit for purpose and as experience with their use broadens, nurses and nursing will have further contribution to make in subsequent reviews. We also endorse the 'living document' approach which updates the standards more frequently, maintaining their currency. The expectations of researchers and organisations 'hosting' research in the sector will move in accordance with a continuous improvement framework.

Addressing inequity is a work in progress in the health and disability sectors, in line with determinations arising from the Waitangi Tribunal on how te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations are to be fulfilled. In this context we particularly acknowledge the incorporation of Te Ara Tika principles in the standards. The standards are further strengthened by the inclusion of the chapter on Research and Māori which outlines the expectation for all researchers to consider how their research can contribute to better health outcomes for Māori.

Nāku noa nā

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