

He aha te mea nui o te ao He tāngata he tāngata he tāngata  
what is the most important thing in the world it is people it is people it is people

***“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”***

Human and environmental health is everyone’s concern and decisions about our communities’ healthcare should be openly and democratically decided, not traded in secrecy.

Health professionals are united on this issue.

We cannot accept a situation where pharmaceutical manufacturers and multinationals have a say in the content of the TPP but our communities do not; where decisions about our healthcare systems are traded in the interests of profit.

What is required is a comprehensive health impact assessment to openly examine the matters and have the debate.

Our health consumers deserve better, our vulnerable and the most disadvantaged are already bearing the brunt of a system that does not meet their needs (*e.g prescriptions*)

As Māori and Pacific, we are already overly represented in poor health outcomes, health inequalities already struggling to go to doctors or fill prescriptions so what will the impact be for this population?

Global health challenges:

- We face major health threats in the 21<sup>st</sup> century such as **obesity, tobacco, alcohol-related harm, antibiotic resistance and climate change** which are likely to require some regulatory flexibility. The TPPA places a range of obligations on governments that would make it more difficult to address these.
- The TPPA is directly at odds with international agreements to address the key **global health challenges** of the 21<sup>st</sup> century eg the COP21 agreement on Climate Change; The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal and Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitment to a Smokefree Aotearoa NZ by 2025 .

We know already:

- The majority of New Zealanders report being in good health.
- High smoking rates persist in Māori adults and in adults living in the most deprived areas.
- The adult and child obesity rates are similar to 2012/13.
- Hazardous drinking rates are highest in young people.
- Adults and children living in the most deprived areas have higher rates of all health risks including smoking, hazardous drinking and obesity.

Dispute settlement:

- **Investor – state dispute settlement** – ISDS allows foreign investors to directly sue national governments over measures they think harm current or even future profits
- No multinational corporation should have the ability to set policy priorities or demand taxpayer money when governments regulate their behavior to protect the public. The threat these corporate courts pose to democratic decision-making goes far beyond any one industry or sector and cuts to the heart of the debate surrounding who actually benefits from trade deals.
- **ISDS is fundamentally a tool to enhance corporate power.**
- As nurses we know that the biggest improvements in healthcare haven't always come through new medicines or new procedures. In fact some of the biggest improvements in population health comes through legislation in non-health areas. Examples such as minimum drinking ages, compulsory seat belts, un-leaded petrol and minimum living wages have massive impacts on the improvement in our health status. The inclusion of ISDS will mean that governments cannot, or will not, legislate for change for fear of being sued. Even if they are not afraid the cost in defending these cases is money that could have been spent on health care initiatives. We have already seen this regulatory chill
- As Health professionals don't know what impacts will be, but there will be unintended consequences of the implementation of TPPA , no one can tell us what the impact on our most disadvantaged population will be

Exceptions and general provisions

- NZNO is a bicultural organisation and

- **Māori** – are already adversely affected in 2 ways
  - not consulted
  - and most vulnerable
- need to strengthen ToW , commitment of
- good faith

For the future of all New Zealanders, we urge you to reconsider a HIA before you go any further

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Kerri Nuku

**Kaiwhakahaere, NZNO**