

DDS 2008/08/008



August 18, 2008

Jilene Everett
Standards New Zealand
Private Bag 2439,
WELLINGTON 6140

Attention

Kia ora

Re: DZ 8135/V7.4 Non-Therapeutic Use of Human Tissue

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the above draft standard and congratulates the Committee for this timely and thorough document. NZNO is a Te Tiriti o Waitangi based organisation which represents over 41 000 nurses and health workers. It is the professional body of nurses and the leading nursing union in Aotearoa New Zealand; Te Runanga o Aotearoa comprises the Māori arm through which our treaty partnership is articulated. Our members, who include nurses, midwives, students, health care workers and other health professionals, are most often the frontline clinical staff who interface with the public and medical researchers and educators.

NZNO warmly supports the intention that the Standard should be responsive to accepted good practice and regularly reviewed. Rapid changes in biotechnologies require such a flexible approach. Similarly we strongly support a coherent regulatory framework to cover consent issues for the collection, storage and use of human tissue for non-therapeutic purposes which is consistent with that for related consent issues.

We generally support the draft standard as it relates to donor, family and whānau rights and responsibilities. We are pleased to note provision for complaint and access to independent advocacy. We note the clarification of 2.2 Informed Consent which recognises the collective implications for the whānau, hapu and iwi whakapapa, but gives individuals the right to make decisions about consent

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We strongly believe that further clarification is necessary for those identifying as Māori. Te Runanga o Aotearoa advises that it is extremely important that there is still the opportunity for the whānau/family to be engaged after death, even if the individual gave consent while alive. The criteria required for informed consent are comprehensive. We support the recognition and respect given to Māori and other cultural values and beliefs, especially the provision for access to Māori health teams or appropriately qualified people at the time of informed consent.

The criteria for section three Organizational Management and Responsibilities are clearly articulated and NZNO warmly applauds provision for systematic documentation of adverse, unplanned or untoward events.

NZNO suggests that confidentiality may be an issue worth considering in section 4 since in some circumstances protection from identification may be required or desirable.

NZNO would like to take this opportunity to promote the development, by a multidisciplinary team, of information and resources for both health professionals and the public. We believe that nurses, who are often required to explain processes and procedures to patients, should be part of that team and should be trained to fulfill that function.

Once again we thank the committee for this opportunity to comment on this well drafted standard.

Yours faithfully

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