The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

What is it and why does it matter?
Our government is negotiating an international agreement that could have a huge effect on the lives of ordinary kiwis. It’s called the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), and it involves eleven Asian and Pacific-rim countries, including the United States.

If it goes ahead, we risk damage to our health system, our innovative economy, our pristine environment, and our ability to have a say in our future.

Secret negotiations
Because the negotiations are being conducted in secret, what we know about the TPPA comes from leaked documents and detective work. This is not acceptable. We have the right to know about significant change for New Zealand, and to have a say about it.

“We expect transparency and the protection of public health as a key pillar of our social democracy. Nothing justifies blanket secrecy where our publicly funded health system is at stake.”

NZNO president, Marion Guy
Risking everything we hold dear

If the TPPA is signed it will affect many aspects of our society:

Restrictions on foreign investment will be frozen and rolled back.

Big overseas companies will be able to sue the New Zealand government for millions in damages if they think new laws and regulations will undermine their profits. Plain cigarette packaging is one example.

Medicines will become more expensive as big pharmaceutical companies gain influence over Pharmac processes, and restrictions are placed on generic medicines.

“New Zealanders need access to affordable medicines. We are a small country; Pharmac uses our bargaining power very effectively and must be protected from provisions in the TPPA which reduce its effectiveness.”

NZNO kaiwhakahaere, Kerri Nuku

Copyright laws will be toughened and more harshly enforced.

Foreign banks, insurance companies and money traders will gain more powers to challenge our laws.

What can we do?

» Find out more at www.itsourfuture.org.nz

» Take part in the “TPPA, Kiwis fight back” day of action on 8 November 2014. Details on the Events page of the It’s our future website.

» Write to MPs and let them know you want TPPA transparency and protection of Pharmac.