

25 July 2024

Health Committee
New Zealand Parliament Pāremata Aotearoa

By email to: he@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Therapeutic Products Act Repeal Bill

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Tu Te Akaaka Roa is writing in response to the Therapeutic Products Act Repeal Bill.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is a membership organisation that prepares doctors to be medical specialists in the field of psychiatry, supports and enhances clinical practice, advocates for people affected by mental illness and advises governments on mental health care.

The RANZCP supports that effective regulation of therapeutic products is required to ensure safe and quality practice. This requires a principle based legislative framework that can be updated to reflect evolutions in practice, and allow flexibility to regulate where there are specific risks.

We agree that the Medicines Act 1981 is not fit for purpose and should be replaced. The Therapeutic Products Act (TPA), which received Royal Assent on 26 July 2023, was designed to modernise the regulation of therapeutic products including medicines, medical devices, and natural health products. The TPA was set to take full effect in September 2026. It is the view of the RANZCP that the TPA brings improvements although would require further work to allow people to efficiently and safely access appropriate evidence-based medicines to support quality practice.

It is understood that the government is considering new legislative proposals to replace the TPA. The effectiveness of legislation change (including the Repeal Bill) will depend on how quickly and effectively the government can implement a new framework to replace the TPA, and what that framework includes. A particular issue we would like to see implemented in any legislative change is the banning of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising, as part of an overall system of access to safe and evidence-based medicines and medical devices.

Yours sincerely



Dr Hiran Thabrew
Chair of Tu Te Akaaka Roa, New Zealand National Committee