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## **HPCA Act Working Group Update to Members**

Work is continuing on Chinese Medicine's application to become registered under the HPCA Act. The HPCA Act Working Group, comprising representatives from each of the Chinese Medicine organisations, is currently assessing options for the best pathway from the choices offered by the Ministry of Health.

Over the last few weeks, Tracey Lindsay (NZASA), and Robin Kerr (AcNZ) have met with representatives from the Nursing Council of New Zealand to further discuss the feasibility of a future Chinese Medicine Responsible Authority (RA) entering a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Nursing Council (NC) to provide necessary administrative support. Such an agreement would enable a new Chinese Medicine RA to take advantage of the considerable skills and resources of the NC. The details and costing estimates of such an agreement are still being finalised.

The full Working Group met via Zoom (an online meeting platform) on Friday 23/8/19, to evaluate progress and pathway options.

The Nursing Council already has SLAs in place with nine other RAs. These RAs share office space, reception services and meeting facilities in central Wellington. The nine RAs also share the use of the NC's established information technology platform, within which each RA maintains their own confidential database. Should a future Chinese Medicine RA agree to a similar arrangement with the NC, it will be able to share these facilities and services, minimising the set-up and duplication of costs of a stand-alone RA. The benefits of being able to work so closely with other more experienced RA's must not be underestimated.

Even with the signed Memorandum of Understanding and Intent to Cooperate that the profession now has with the Nursing Council, the process toward registration under the HPCA Act will still take time. We would like to assure members that we are taking care to ensure that we have all the appropriate information on board and that any decisions

made are made with the interests of our members to the fore. We will continue to keep everyone informed of our progress.

For the FULL REPORT and detailed information of the process so far follow this link to the Regulation page on the NZASA website under the HPCA tab on the member's area page: <https://nzasa.org/members-area/hpca-act/?stage=Stage>

Regards  
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