

Vital Signs

Thank you for your support



Our Voice

Media

Kate Baddock, Chair of the NZMA spoke with [Radio NZ](#) following the third reading and passing of the End of Life Choice Bill this week leading to a public referendum in 2020 and NZMA was mentioned on [Stuff](#).

Jan White, NZMA GPC Chair spoke with Stuff on [baby gender identity kits](#).



KEEP THOSE NOMINATIONS COMING LET'S RECOGNISE GREAT CLINICAL TEACHING!

Have you worked with someone who is an excellent clinical teacher?

Make time to say thank you and nominate them!

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) and New Zealand Medical Students' Association (NZMSA) established the New Zealand Medical Teaching Awards to:

- recognise the positive impact doctors are making
- encourage the development of a positive clinical teaching culture and environment for the benefits of students, staff and ultimately patients.

Your nominations will recognise those doctors in New Zealand who are giving back, developing and encouraging students in what we all know is a challenging profession.

Get behind our teachers building a positive teaching culture -[nominate now!](#)

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



SUBMISSION ON FOLIC ACID

Read our full submission [here](#)

We reiterate our strong support for mandatory folic acid fortification. There is categorical evidence that folic acid fortification reduces the prevalence of neural tube defect (NTD)-affected pregnancies.

The current voluntary approach to fortification in New Zealand is not increasing folate status adequately for the optimal reduction of NTDs.

Our preference is for option 3b (mandatory fortification of non-organic wheat flour used for making bread). Mandatory folic acid fortification would help reduce the inequities in NTD rates, particularly for women with less education, younger mothers and Māori women.



2019 DITC PGY1 REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION UNDERWAY

Keep those votes coming

PGY1 Representative position on the Doctors-in-Training Council election is underway.

Those eligible to vote will have received an individualised voting logon for those eligible to vote (NZMA PGY1 members in 2020).

Read about your 2019 PGY1 [candidates](#).

[Email us](#) for more information.



NZMA BOARD MEDICAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE 2019

Election for NZMA Board Medical Student representative position continues.

Meet the [candidates](#).

Individualised voting logons have been emailed to those eligible to vote (NZMA medical student members in 2020).

[Email us](#) for more information.



Te Kaunihera
Rata o
Aotearoa

**Medical
Council of
New Zealand**

CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL'S NAMING POLICY

YOUR FEEDBACK WANTED

The Medical Council is [consulting](#) on a policy on publication of orders and directions, otherwise known as a 'naming policy'. The new policy outlines how Council may publish the name of a doctor and the details of an order or direction made about that doctor under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA).

The need for Council to develop this policy results from an amendment made by Parliament to the HPCAA earlier this year. The amendment requires Council and other authorities operating under the Act to publish a naming policy. The policy is required to set out the principles and considerations that Council must take into account when considering whether to publish an order or direction and to name the doctor concerned. Council is seeking feedback on the 4 questions below.

Please feedback to [Sanji](#) by **Monday 18 November** and help inform our submission.



DOCTORS IN TRAINING & WORK SATISFACTION

Dr Hashim Abdeen, who has taken on the role of AMACDT Deputy Chair talks about what makes DiTs satisfied at work. Read the full article [here](#).



YOUR THOUGHTS PLEASE TO INFORM OUR WORKSAFE & SHIFTWORK SUBMISSION

WorkSafe is conducting a targeted consultation on guidance for safe and healthy shiftwork.

The purpose of the guidance is to support Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs) to eliminate or minimise the health and safety risks associated with shiftwork. The draft guide covers the following:

- what shiftwork is, and the risks associated with it
- shiftwork risk management systems
- tools and resources that may be useful to PCBUs.

*To help inform our response, could you please provide your feedback on the consultation by email to [Sanji](#) by close of business **Friday 29 November**?*



FAREWELL TO FRAN MCGRATH - REST IN PEACE

NZMA farewells Fran McGrath, a stalwart in our profession and a colleague who will be missed by many for her sage advice, counsel and mentoring.

Fran undertook her medical training at Otago University, Dunedin, after which she became a volunteer with Porirua Community Health Project. Work in rural and low-income communities led to her enrolling for the Diploma of Community Medicine at Otago, Wellington in the mid-1980s, and to her specialisation as a public health medicine doctor.

She worked internationally, in Honduras in her early career, and more recently in the Pacific. She served on World Health Organization expert groups and represented New Zealand at a number of World Health Assemblies.

Fran was an active member of the Public Health Association (PHA) and was recently appointed to the role of President of the PHA, a role which she had also previously held and where she had worked with the PHA Council and Māori Caucus to create the PHA's first Māori governance roles. She served on the Oxfam NZ Board since 2015.

Fran also worked for the Ministry of Health for many years and until recently was the Chief Advisor in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. In her time with the Ministry, she also held the role of Acting / Deputy Director of Public Health and was Senior Advisor to a number of Health Ministers. She spoke of the "privilege and satisfaction of having served in so many different roles in the Ministry, interspersed with time in general practice, in planning and funding in two RHAs, and in health services research, evaluating community-based models of primary health care".

In her early career, Fran was involved in the development of Wellington Hospital's first Patients' and Doctors' Code of Rights and Responsibilities which formed the basis of the current Code of Patient Rights. During her time as Policy Manager for primary health care, she introduced free consultations for under-fives, as well as the first generally available capitation contract for general practice that included quality expectations. She was expert advisor for the development of the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework. She was the NZ Chief Clinical Advisor managing the Swine Flu pandemic in the early 1990s, and the baby milk botulism scare in 2013.

Fran was an intellectual giant with a strong commitment to equity. She is remembered as being very committed, very wise, very politically astute, unafraid to speak her mind, clever and kind. She mentored many College Fellows and

supervised many College registrars – she was always willing to help and will be fondly remembered by us all.

Our sympathies are with her husband Edwin and family.

Image is of Farewell Spit, NZ by [Mikael Kristenson](#).
Adapted from the NZ College of Public Health Medicine



NEW FRAMEWORK FOR E-MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Ministry of Health has announced a new framework to better support New Zealand's rapidly expanding e-mental health services.

"Digital mental health programmes, such as e-coaching, e-screening and e-therapy, are revolutionising our country's mental health services, but we need to ensure they're safe and fit-for-purpose," says Mental Health and Addiction Deputy Director-General, Robyn Shearer.

"The Ministry's developing an e-Mental Health Framework to guide the use and development of e-mental health to better support providers who deliver telehealth and web-based programmes, practitioners and the public."

"The framework is expected to be ready for use early next year and will give added confidence for people accessing tools and services online in New Zealand."

The concept of this new framework was shared at the International eMental Health Experts Forum in Auckland.



UPDATE ON LAMOTRIGINE BRAND CHANGE

PHARMAC understands that there is a lot of public concern in relation to this brand change for lamotrigine. As a result of the feedback received, PHARMAC has streamlined the application process for funding for a specific brand of lamotrigine.

PHARMAC will consider funding applications from prescribers for patients who may have difficulty changing brands due to medical reasons or other concerns.

This includes for individuals that prescribers consider:

- have not tolerated the change
- have had breakthrough seizures
- have had mood destabilisation
- there are clinical concerns about the individual's ability to manage the change (e.g. previous issues with medication changes, severe anxiety around this brand change)
- that have concerns about their ability to drive

Additional information is available on PHARMAC's website under applying for [exceptional circumstances funding](#) this includes updated, simpler to use, downloadable [application forms](#).

For any queries please contact PHARMAC on 0800 66 00 50 or e-mail enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz

Quote of the week

*The journey of a 1000 miles begins with one step.
Lao Tzu*

CLASSIFIED ADS and situations vacant

NZMA offers members free classifieds and vacancy advertisements.

Check out NZMJ website's [Vacancies page](#) and you may just find your dream opportunity.

Latest vacancies and classifieds include the following - just click on the vacancy/classified ad to be taken to the full ad:

Vacancies

- [Part-time GP wanted in Mapua, Nelson \(Closes 4 December 2019\)](#)
- [Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist | Whangarei \(Closes 29 November 2019\)](#)
- [GP Required | Te Puke \(Closes 20 November 2019\)](#)
- [1-2 GPs Required | Mission Bay \(Closes 13 December\)](#)
- [Consultant Physician | New Plymouth \(Closes 30 November 2019\)](#)
- [General Practitioner 1/10th \(neg\) | Auckland \(Closes 7 December\)](#)

Classifieds

- [GP partnership for sale | Nelson City](#)
- [Shareholding for sale in Auckland Medical Centre](#)
- [Due to Retirement - Partnership Share Buy-In Opportunity | Kerikeri \(Closes 12 December\)](#)

Members advertise for free - [classifieds](#) and/or [vacancies](#) via Hotline.



UPCOMING EVENTS

View our upcoming health sector events - go to the [NZMA events page on our website](#) for the full list.



MED CAN 2020

18-19 March 2020

**New Zealand's first medicinal
cannabis summit**

MedCan 2020 will bring together leading experts, scientists, clinicians, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers and thought leaders to share first-hand insights and up-to-date information about the world of medicinal cannabis. The summit has been created to inspire



GETTING BETTER WITH EVIDENCE

10 December 2019 | Auckland Medical Research Foundation Auditorium | Grafton Campus, University of Auckland

With a focus on the needs of a New Zealand audience, the conference will explore:

- gathering and disseminating better evidence
- translating evidence into action, including increasing equity and reducing over-diagnosis and over-treatment
- building solutions, the roles of big data, randomised controlled trials and real-world experience.

Find more information [here](#)

and inform:

- Healthcare professionals
- Patients
- Academics
- Researchers
- Government officials
- Business
- Investors
- Entrepreneurs and innovators
- Growers

For further information please contact:
Donna Clapham, Workz4U Conference Management

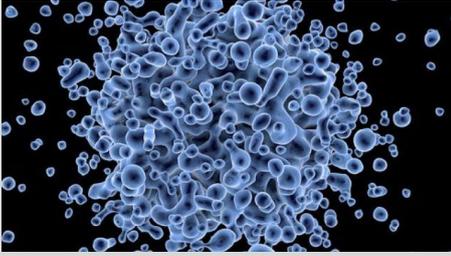
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MEMBER BENEFITS

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NZMA MEMBERS NO COST ADVERTISING

NZMA offers members the opportunity to place vacancies for personnel in the NZMJ and Vital Signs free of charge.

Reach the medical professionals you want as many do week on week.

Cherrytree is a unique shopping concept that gives members exclusive access to wholesale prices for almost every conceivable category of product.

As an NZMA member, join a FREE membership and receive a 20 point credit towards a premium Gold membership valued at \$200. NZMA members also receive a discounted Cherrytree Gold renewal fee. For more details please

email communications@nzma.org.nz

Member Advisory Service

Employment Relations Act – unions / good faith

The Employment Relations Act is based around the concept of 'good faith', which is mutual trust, confidence and fair trading between employees, unions and employers. The NZMA Advisory Service has member resources that cover the concept of good faith and the role of unions under the ERA.

These flyers are available for members to download from the [NZMA advisory service](#) on our website. You must be logged in to view and/or download these flyers, or you can email [Robyn Fell](#) for copies.

- *Employment Relations Act 2000 – Summary of key points*
- *Union membership and union access to the workplace*
- *Good Faith in the employment relationship*

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