

Vital Signs

Thank you for your support



Our Voice

Media

Following the release of two reports by the Health and Disability Commissioner, NZMA Chair, Kate Baddock talked with [Newstalk ZB](#) on 'a shortage of doctors resulting in serious illness being overlooked'.

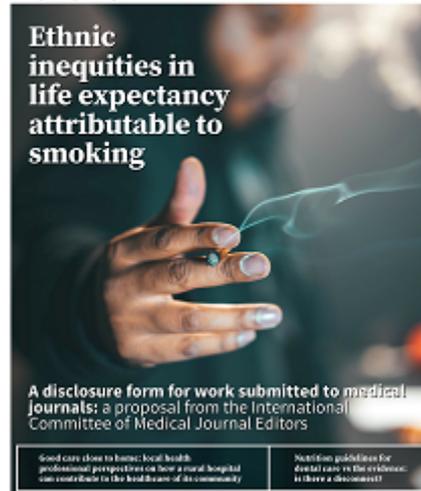
Jan White, GPC Chair also talked with NZ Doctor on the same subject.

You can access the two reports from [HDC here](#) and [here](#).

Diary

NZMA CEO Lesley Clarke attended the primary health care sector meeting hosted by ACC.

Lesley also attended a meeting with Medsafe.



LATEST NZ MEDICAL JOURNAL

The NZMJ is now out - [Read the full journal](#) (you will need your login).

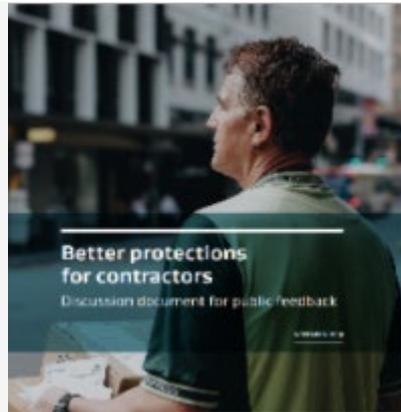
You will notice some changes with the NZMJ as we took the opportunity to refresh the Journal when we recently changed website providers.

NZMJ Login

If you have not already done so you will need to reset your password to login to the NZMJ (and NZMA).

1. Click [login](#) (top right of the website)
2. Click 'forgot my password' (underneath SIGN IN)
3. Reset your password by entering your email address (registered with the NZMA) and you will be sent a 'password reset'
4. Receive email with 'token'- random letters and numbers
5. Return to NZMJ website and enter 'token'(create password and confirm password)
6. NZMJ website homepage may load or go to NZMJ website
7. Login with your email and new password
8. Any queries [email us](#).

Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.



BETTER PROTECTIONS FOR CONTRACTORS – MORE WAYS TO HAVE YOUR SAY TO MBIE

Thank you to all those that completed our survey on [better protections for contractors](#).

Survey results show that members have a range of views on whether GP contractor employment practices need to be addressed.

This range of views exists in all categories including current contractors.

We have [written to MBIE](#) asking to continue to be involved as this work progresses.

You can also [give MBIE your views directly](#).

If you are currently working as contractor, you can also complete MBIE's [brief survey](#).



RARE DISEASE DAY 2020 - 29 FEBRUARY

There are 300,000 Kiwis with a rare condition - around 6% of the population.

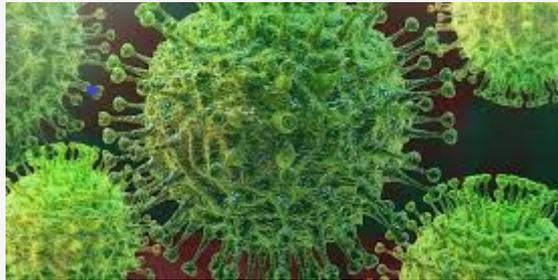
Rare Disease Day NZ is on Saturday 29 February 2020 and aims to raise awareness and funding to support those with a rare illness in NZ and their whānau and improve healthcare in those with these rare conditions.

[Hear the stories](#) of the children and adults with rare diseases. More than half of the 300,000 affected are children and many will not make it into adulthood. Rare disorders

impact everyone in a family, from parents giving up work to become caregivers to siblings who struggle to understand what's happening.

Rare Disorders NZ has a plan for positive change and a **Fair for Rare** campaign with strategic priorities for a National Framework that will be presented to the Government at a special Rare Disease Day event.

[Rare Disorders NZ need](#) your help to continue its important work as funding is being steadily reduced, even though demand for services has only increased. [Hear Jame's story](#) - "Without Rare Disorders New Zealand we would have had nowhere to turn for support. Now it's time to help them." - Nicola.



MOH CORONA VIRUS ADVISORY AS AT THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY

ADVISORY SUMMARY:

This Ministry of Health advisory is to update you on the response to the coronavirus outbreak in China. As at 1500hrs on 6 February 2020, there have been 28,149 cases confirmed worldwide, with 565 deaths. 27,902 of these cases have been in Mainland China.

Confirmation of Eligibility for Publicly Funded Health Services for Non New Zealand Residents Impacted by 2019-nCoV

From Thursday 30 January 2020, novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness was made a notifiable infectious disease under the Health Act 1956. In addition to allowing the Health Act provisions for the management of infectious diseases to be used for this new disease, its inclusion also triggers changes in eligibility for publicly funded services.

Eligibility

Any person who requires services relating to a notifiable disease (or quarantinable disease) is covered as part of publicly funded health services. These services include surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, follow up and contact tracing of an infectious disease. This means that a person who would normally have to pay the full cost of health services in New Zealand, for example a tourist at a public hospital or in a general practice, is now eligible to receive the same publicly funded services as a New Zealand resident.

Additional clarification for primary care for non-residents

When a person ineligible for health services presents to primary care they are initially

treated and charged as any ineligible casual patient.

1. If they **meet** the epidemiological and clinical definition of a ‘suspected case’, ‘probable case’, or ‘confirmed case’:
 - a. the clinician will notify the Medical Officer of Health on call
 - b. they will then be eligible for care as if they were a New Zealand resident
 - c. they will still incur the usual co-payment (if appropriate) as per an eligible patient at that practice.

Note: Eligibility only relates to health care associated with the Notifiable Disease and not to any other health condition.

2. If they **do not meet** the epidemiological and clinical case definitions, they will continue to be charged as an ineligible casual patient.

Where a suspected case is confirmed as **not** having a notifiable disease, then any subsequent visit or follow-up care required by primary care will be treated as if they were ineligible for New Zealand subsidised health services (the patient should not retrospectively be charged for the original consultation).

The details of the processes around reimbursement to practices and pharmacies for service delivery have yet to be arranged. The Ministry of Health will provide further communication when this has occurred. Case definitions change, so please [go here](#) for the latest case definitions.

Guidance on self-isolation

The guidance on self-isolation has been updated and can be found [here](#):

Dedicated 0800 number for health advice and information

Healthline has set up a dedicated 0800 number specifically for **health-related** calls about the coronavirus.

- The number is [0800 358 5453](#)
- Or for international SIMs [+64 9 358 5453](#)
- People calling that line will be able to talk with a member of the National Telehealth Service and interpreters will be on hand. The number is staffed by nurses, paramedics and health advisors.

Healthline’s existing number is still the main number to calls for non-coronavirus health concerns.

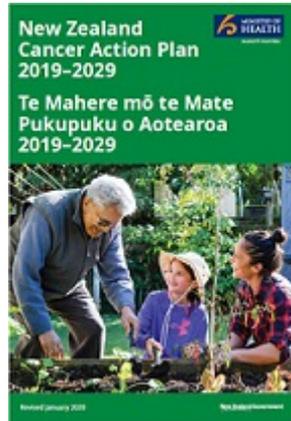
Further information

The Ministry hosted an important community meeting with Whangaparâoa residents on Thursday evening (6/2) to update them on novel coronavirus and just how they are supporting those people in isolation at the Whangaparâoa Reception Centre. The meeting was an important one to get health advice across to members of the public in the area.

The Ministry is continuing to work with other agencies to explore how we can further support people who are self-isolating, as they’re settling in and there is already a range of support available to New Zealanders who are faced with financial hardship and we encourage people to reach out if they need help. More information is available on the Work and Income website [here](#):

The Ministry is regularly updating its information on the [Novel coronavirus](#) page and providing information on its [Facebook](#) page.

Please note the Ministry has a new generic e-mail address for matters relating to the Novel Coronavirus event. EMAIL: ncovresponse@health.govt.nz



NZ CANCER ACTION PLAN

Updated NZ Cancer Action Plan released

The updated [New Zealand Cancer Action Plan 2019-2029](#) was published earlier this week and outlines an equity led, person and whānau centred and outcomes focus.

"Our vision to ensure New Zealanders receive world class care, regardless of who they are or where they live, is a step closer to becoming a reality. We're excited about what we can achieve in New Zealand in Cancer Control," says Cancer Control Agency interim chief executive Professor Diana Sarfati.



RESEARCH FOR LIFE - RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS NOW OPEN FOR WELLINGTON BASED RESEARCHERS

Wellington-based medical researchers are invited to apply for research and travel

grants.

The closing date for Research for Life's next round of grant applications is Friday, 27 March 2020.

For further information or to arrange an interview with Associate Professor Rebecca Grainger, please contact Rob McGregor on 0292 372 676 or [email](#).

For more information go to www.researchforlife.org.nz.

Quote of the week

Calm mind brings inner strength and self-confidence, so that's very important for good health.
Dalai Lama

CLASSIFIED ADS and situations vacant

NZMA offers members free classifieds and vacancy advertisements.

Check out the 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

- [Palliative Care Physician | Auckland \(Closes 29 February 2020\)](#)
- [Respiratory Physician | Southland \(Closes 23 February\)](#)
- [Locum GP wanted | New Lynn, Auckland \(Closes 17 February\)](#)
- [Specialist Physician for Older People | Northland DHB \(Closes 16 February\)](#)
- [Senior Medical Officer – Addiction Services | Masterton \(Closes 9 February\)](#)
- [GP Required | Te Puke \(Closes 6 March 2020\)](#)
- [Public Health Physician Dunedin | Otago](#)
- [Interventional Cardiologist | Queensland \(Closes 24 February 2020\)](#)
- [Associate GP with a view - Raumati South, Greater Wellington \(closes 31 March 2020\)](#)
- [Specialist Otolaryngologist Nelson Marlborough area \(closes 22 February 2020\)](#)
- [Associate Editors wanted for the New Zealand Medical Journal](#)

Classifieds

- [Auckland General Practice for sale: Central suburbs](#)

- [Solo Rural GP Practice for Sale - Whangarei](#)
- [Practice for sale - Urban Auckland](#)
- [GP partnership for sale - Nelson City](#)
- [Practice for Sale in Auckland Medical Centre](#)

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.



WONCA 2020

23rd Apr 2020 - 26th Apr 2020

WONCA is taking place from 23 – 26 April 2020 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland. It will be hosted by the College, in conjunction with the Rural General Practice Network and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa - Māori Medical Practitioners Association.

This major primary health care conference is expected to attract more than 1000 delegates, from New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region.



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND GENERAL MEDICINE UPDATE

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND GENERAL MEDICINE UPDATE 2020

20-22 March 2020

How do you keep your knowledge and skills up to date?

The world of medicine is evolving more rapidly than ever before.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

WONCA takes the place of the College's annual Conference for General Practice, and will also include the National Rural Health conference and the Te ORA Hui-ā-Tau and Scientific conference. For information, visit the conference [website](#).



MEMBER

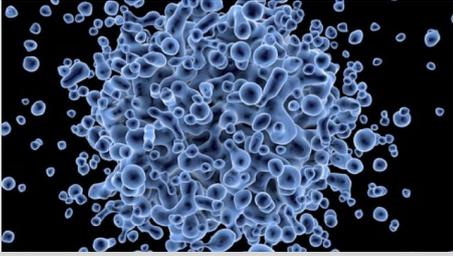
BENEFITS



EMIRATES

Have you booked your next holiday yet?

As a member of NZMA, you and your immediate family (when they fly with you) can save on airfares in Economy Class and Business Class when you fly with Emirates. Book today and receive 5% discount off flights to over 150 destinations worldwide.



**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.

This includes Business Flex/Flex Plus and Economy Flex/Flex Plus fares*, as well as Business Saver and Economy Saver fares*

This offer is valid on Emirates operated services from New Zealand to all Emirates destinations

For more information and to redeem this offer head to the [NZMA website](#) or head to [Emirates website](#) (with the discount already activated).

Offer ends 30 April 2020.

*Subject to Terms and Conditions

Member Advisory Service

Medical Records

Can you answer all of the following questions?

- How long must I retain medical records?
- Can health information be transferred?
- Can the obligation to retain medical records be transferred?
- How is health information to be retained?
- How do I dispose of Health information?

The NZMA Advisory Service has a resource that answers these questions and other issues covered in the Health (Retention of Health Information) Regulations 1996. 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.

Vital Signs is your weekly bulletin about the NZMA and 'what's hot'.

[unsubscribe](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

New Zealand Medical Association
Level 5 NZMA House, 26 The Terrace
Wellington, Wellington 6140
New Zealand

[Add us to your address book](#)

| Ph (04) 472 4741 | Fax (04) 471 0838

Email: communications@nzma.org.nz | Visit our website: www.nzma.org.nz