



7 June 2016

**Private and confidential
For addressee only**

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Ms Tracey Keen
Director
Thyroid Association of New Zealand Inc
25 Oram Avenue
New Brighton
Christchurch 8061

Dear Ms Kean

I acknowledge receipt by the Medical Council of the letter from Ms Belinda Hodson with which was enclosed your letter seeking the support of the Council in securing improved thyroid treatment. The Registrar is currently on leave, so your letter came to my attention.

I have personally read all of your letter and note your specific requests in the final summary. However the Medical Council has no jurisdiction over the matters that are the subject of your requests.

The statutory role of the Medical Council is to protect the health and safety of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practice medicine. On the face of it you might think that this would include ensuring that the medical profession know how to treat patients with thyroid dysfunction but the Council's role relates to ensuring *individual* doctors are appropriately qualified, are fit to practice, and maintain appropriate standards of competence and conduct. While the Council has a role in setting standards of good practice this does not extend to defining or endorsing specific health care treatments.

A number of organisations have a role in New Zealand in researching and disseminating 'best practice' in health care treatments and you may wish to send your letter to them (if you have not already done so). I would suggest the following organisations:

- 1) Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, PO Box 5013, Wellington 6140.
- 2) CEO, Best Practice Advocacy Centre NZ, PO Box 6032, Dunedin 9059.
- 3) CEO, New Zealand Formulary – has online presence only at www.nzformulary.org
- 4) Chief Executive, The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, PO Box 10440, Wellington 6143.

- 5) Manager, New Zealand branch of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, PO Box 10601, Wellington 6143.
- 6) Chief Executive, Pharmac, PO Box 10254, Wellington 6143.

Your letter to the Council has been electronically scanned and will be retained. Should you wish to uplift your paper version together with the data stick and plastic cover, please let me know and I will arrange for it to be left at our reception desk. I can be contacted at syorke@mcnz.org.nz or on 04 381 6776.

Yours sincerely



Susan Yorke
Deputy Registrar