



Te Ao Māramatanga  
New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.  
Partnership, Voice, Excellence in Mental Health Nursing

PO Box 77-080, Mt Albert, Auckland, 1350, New Zealand

19 February 2025

## **Te Ao Māramatanga- New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses oral submission on the Mental Health Bill**

Karakia – opening from President – Hineroa Hakiha (2mins)

Key messages from College Fellow - Suzette Poole and Tony O'Brien

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an oral submission to the Health Select Committee on the Mental Health Bill.

Te Ao Māramatanga- New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses is the professional body and voice for Registered Nurses with specialist mental health knowledge and skills in New Zealand. We also have national addiction and disability branches.

This oral submission is made in addition to the written submission we have provided you with. At this meeting we wish to convey to the Health Select Committee 10 key points.

- 1) Firstly we welcome collective action being taken to transform mental health legislation in Aotearoa – New Zealand and believe this is a step in the right direction. With the right adjustments to this Mental Health Bill we hold hope that change will enable an approach based on people's rights and recovery.
- 2) Whilst the Bill describes how to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, in Clause 5, we believe that this can be strengthened. A range of options must be available and easily accessible. Options to receive Western and or Te Ao Māori approaches and interventions are critical to reducing compulsory care of Māori tangata whaiora. Hauora Māori models of care must be at the forefront of system change to reduce use of

compulsory care in Aotearoa. Growing community based hauora maaori services is critical. Resourcing services and communities to support the family - whaanau of a person experiencing problems with their mental health will be needed.

- 3) We are very mindful that any new mental health legislation will be impacted by, social determinants of health ie; poverty, housing, employment and access to health care in the community. All of which still need to be addressed. Furthermore stigma and discrimination about mental health continues to be evident in our society and impacts on people seeking and accessing support.
- 4) At the core of this Bill is the use of compulsory assessment and care. Further work is needed on rebalancing substitute decision making processes towards more supported decision making approaches to enable the voice of tangata whaiora and whanau to be heard, listened to, and respected. Particular attention is needed on what happens in the community to ensure that there is an agreed plan in place.
- 5) As nurses we will continue to encourage people to have advanced directives so we are aware of their will and preferences during times of crisis.
- 6) Assessing the capacity of a person to determine whether or not they are capable of making decisions should be completed by trained registered health professionals and include expertise of cultural advisors.
- 7) Te Ao Māramatanga continues to support and advocate for least restrictive practices and minimise use of seclusion and restraint. Hospital based care for people who are using or withdrawing from substances, and experiencing problems with their mental health continues to require attention in terms of providing safe care. People with co-existing mental health and addiction problems are often subject to compulsory assessment and care. Building CEP capability with the workforce is needed.
- 8) We implore you to ensure that the implementation plan includes a robust workforce plan to enable the range of kaimahi- worker roles to confidently and competently implement new mental health legislation



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building on a strong foundation of values, knowledge and skills. Culturally safe practices will be critical. Support, mentorship and supervision for kaimahi undertaking any new roles will need to be in place.

- 9) Mental health nurses are the largest registered health professional group in specialist mental health and addiction services and we will play an instrumental role in bedding in any new mental health legislation. Mental health nurses will continue to be involved in responding to people in crisis and in providing 24 hour nursing care within inpatient settings.
  
- 10) The Standards for Practice for Mental Health Nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand developed by Te Ao Māramatanga will be the beacon of light to guide us through the journey ahead. We are here to work with the Ministry of Health to transform mental health legislation in Aotearoa- New Zealand

Thank you

I will now hand back to Hineroa to close

## DETAILS

Health Select Committee

Points to note:

### **Arrangements for oral submissions**

You are welcome to bring support people with you if you would like to. If you are submitting in person, up to 2 support people are allowed to sit at the table with you when you are making your submission. Please let us know if you intend to bring support people. The committee also encourages karakia and waiata if you so wish, to fit within the allocated 10 minutes.

Please note that oral submissions are **open to the public and livestreamed on the Parliament website**. Please let us know if you have any concerns about this.

### **Please note the following instructions**

- We ask that you do not share lived or living experience of others, including family members, without the informed consent from that person. (Speaker's Ruling 97/1)
- We ask that you do not make allegations against a named or otherwise identifiable person that may seriously damage their reputation. (Standing Order 240)

If you do not follow these instructions, the Chairperson may decide to interrupt your submission.

Your submission on the Mental Health Bill is confirmed. Please find below a draft schedule of hearings to be held on Wednesday 19 February.

**The final schedule, along with instructions depending on whether you are appearing in person or via Zoom, will be shared closer to the hearing date.**

The Health Committee will be split into two subcommittees to hear from submitters.

Please make sure you have noted down your timeslot.

### **Subcommittee A**

9.00am - 9.05am	Peter Currie
9.20am - 9.25am	Valerie Black
9.25am - 9.30am	Matthew Baird
9.30am - 9.40am	Child Advocacy NZ
9.40am - 9.50am	Asian Family Services



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9.50am - 10.00am	The Law Association of New Zealand
10.00am - 10.10am	PSA
10.10am - 10.15am	Pauline Eunice Tangiora
10.15am - 10.25am	Community Law Centres Aotearoa
10.25am - 10.30am	Matthew Scott
10.30am - 10.35am	Aram Kim
10.35am - 10.45am	Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand
10.45am - 10.55am	Te Kahui Tika Tangata - New Zealand Human Rights Commission
10.55am - 11.00am	Craig Atkinson
11.00am - 11.10am	<b>BREAK</b>
11.10am - 11.20am	New Zealand Law Society Te Kahui Ture o Aotearoa
11.20am - 11.25am	Toa Kasi Raukura Ruth Keeti
11.25am - 11.35am	Citizens Commission on Human Rights (NZ)
11.35am - 11.45am	Wellington psychiatry registrars
11.45am - 11.50am	Chloe Shaw
12.00pm - 12.10pm	Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition New Zealand

12.10pm - 12.15pm	Krishna Pillai
12.15pm - 12.20pm	Oliver Hansby
12.20pm - 12.25pm	Yvette Warren
12.25pm - 12.30pm	Sonja Mitchell
12.30pm - 12.40pm	Combined Central Collegial Psychiatrists
12.40pm - 12.45pm	Bellatina Shewan
12.45pm - 12.55pm	Te Ao Maramatanga - New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses

### Subcommittee B

9.00am - 9.10am	Alcohol Healthwatch
9.10am - 9.20am	Wellington Free Ambulance And Hato Hone St John
9.20am - 9.25am	Anthony O'Brien
9.25am - 9.30am	Sapideh Zareie
9.30am - 9.40am	A peer group of Psychiatrists in the Wellington, Hutt Valley, and Kapiti Region
10.00am - 10.10am	New Zealand Ambulance Association
10.10am - 10.15am	Paulien Fa'atafa
10.15am - 10.25am	John Miller Law
10.25am - 10.35am	Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Aotearoa (PADA)
11.00am - 11.10am	<b>BREAK</b>
11.10am - 11.20am	Te Kete Pounamu o Te Rau Ora
11.20am - 11.30am	Mental Health Nurse Section NZNO



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11.30am - 11.40am	Thriving Madly
12.05pm - 12.10pm	Iris Reuvecamp
12.10pm - 12.15pm	Caitlin McBride
12.10pm - 12.20pm	Changing Minds Trust
12.40pm - 12.45pm	Payal Ramritu
12.25pm - 12.30pm	Max Marshall
12.30pm - 12.40pm	Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission
12.40pm - 12.45pm	Ian McLauchlan
12.45pm - 12.50pm	Miguel Tanongon
12.50pm - 1.00pm	FASD-CAN Ltd. Aotearoa

Ngā mihi,  
Committee staff