

31 August 2023

Ms Joan Simeon
Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa
Medical Council of New Zealand
By email to: consultation@mcnz.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Simeon

Re: Draft Joint Statement on 'Principles for quality and safe prescribing practice'

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Draft Joint Statement on 'Principles for quality and safe prescribing practice', led by the Pharmacy Council and the Medical Council of New Zealand's (the Council).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in New Zealand and Australia and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 7900 members, including more than 5600 qualified psychiatrists and is guided on policy matters by a range of expert committees including the Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the New Zealand National Committee. The RANZCP supports collaboration at all levels of the health system to bring about transformational change, and values the development of shared resources, such as the statement for Principles for quality and safe prescribing.

The Draft Joint Statement on 'Principles for quality and safe prescribing practice' creates a set of high-level principles that apply to all authorised prescribers in Aotearoa New Zealand and was considered in addition to more detailed standards provided by the MCNZ. Tu Te Akaaka Roa broadly agrees with the principles outlined in the document, which are set at a reasonable and fair level and align with our own guideline, including the RANZCP's Code of Ethics. However, the RANZCP suggests strengthening the following areas:

- Providing stronger guidance for the role of whānau, carers, and family members in the prescribing process. The inclusion of social supports (in line with doctor-patient confidentiality and patient wishes) is particularly important for people with mental health concerns; whilst whānau are referred to in draft statement, it is in broad context only and further guidance is needed on how this applies on an individual basis.
- Outlining prescribing principles for tamariki and rangatahi, including the role of whānau, carers, and family members. The draft statement currently offers no guidance on safe prescribing practice for underage patients. It is essential that all prescribers working with tamariki and rangatahi adhere to the recommended safety and legal requirements and provide culturally appropriate care.

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Moore
President



Dr Hiran Thabrew
National Chair, Tu Te Akaaka Roa