

8 May 2020

PHARMAC

By email: [consult@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:consult@pharmac.govt.nz)

### **Modifying funded access to mifepristone and misoprostol**

Dear Sir / Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above proposal. We note that the proposal would enable funded mifepristone and misoprostol to be available for use by qualified health practitioners who may provide medical abortion services in community or primary care settings. In doing so, it supports the changes enacted by Parliament in the Abortion Legislation Act 2020.

The NZMA is strongly supportive of this proposal. In paragraph 21 in our submission on the Abortion Legislation Bill,<sup>1</sup> we stated: *“To support improved access to early medical abortions, it is essential to ensure that abortion pills such as mifepristone and misoprostol are made available to GPs to prescribe.”* Although not directly within the scope of this particular consultation, we would also like to know how funding will follow for the extra appointments needed when medical abortion is managed by a GP.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock  
NZMA Chair

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<sup>1</sup> NZMA. Submission to the Abortion Legislation Committee. 19 September 2019. Available from <https://bit.ly/2KNJtNo>