

31 May 2021

Tony Marlow
Principal Adviser
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

By email: MedAspectsReview@nzta.govt.nz

Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive: A Guide for Health Practitioners

Dear Tony

Thank you for inviting the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to assist Waka Kotahi in its review of *Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive: A Guide for Health Practitioners*. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders. Our submission has been informed by feedback from our Board and Advisory Councils.

We understand that at this stage, Waka Kotahi is asking for initial submissions to inform the basis of changes/updates to the current (2014) edition of *Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive*. We offer the following points by way of feedback on the current edition and suggestions for consideration during the update.

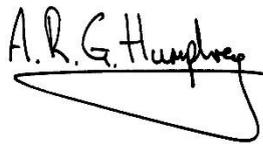
- This guide is seen as a useful and valued resource for medical practitioners, particularly GPs.
- The layout of the existing guide is clear and easy to navigate.
- The content is comprehensive with an impressive panel of input.
- The print version is liked. While one GP member commented they would be happy to pay \$25 for each copy, another felt it should be offered for free in print form as the service offered to NZTA and patients is of huge benefit. The cost could be incorporated into the driving licence fee.
- In section 11, we suggest that information relating to cannabis needs to extend beyond a drug of abuse to cover cannabis that is prescribed. It is important that both prescribers of

cannabis as well as patients that are prescribed it are aware of its potential impacts on driving.

- We suggest that it would be useful to provide an online link and/or email address to enable health professionals to refer questions directly and quickly to the Chief Medical Advisor. This would be more efficient than providing only a postal address as is currently the case.

We hope our feedback is helpful and would welcome the opportunity to contribute further to this review as it progresses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. R. G. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke that extends to the right and then loops back under the name.

Dr Alistair Humphrey
NZMA Chair