



Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa  
Nursing Council of New Zealand

## Nursing Council's role in keeping you safe.

## Te wāhi o te Kaunihera kia noho haumaru koe.

**When you need nursing care,  
you want to know that the nurses  
who look after you can provide  
quality care.**

Nurses working in New Zealand have to be registered. The Nursing Council has the job of registering nurses and making sure they are “competent and fit” to practise.

This pamphlet has been produced to give you an introduction to the work of the Council and to let you know what you can do if you have concerns about the nursing care you or someone else received.

**Ina pīrangi atawhai kumanu koe,  
me mōhio koe e āhei ana ngā  
tapuhi e tiaki ana i a koe te  
whakarato i te atawhai rawe.**

Me rēhita ngā tapuhi e mahi ana ki Aotearoa. Kei te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga te kawenga rēhita i ngā tapuhi me te āta tirotiro “he kaiiaka, he tika hoki” rātou ki te mahi.

Kua whakaputaina tēnei puka whakarārama hei whakataki i a koe ki te mahi a te Kaunihera me te whakamōhio i a koe kia pehea koe ina whai āwangawanga koe mō te atawhai kumanu i whiwhi i a koe, i a tētahi atu rānei.





## What is the Nursing Council?

The Nursing Council is a organisation set up under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCA). It has nine members – six nurses and three laypeople, who represent public interests. Most Council members are appointed by the Minister of Health but nurses vote for some of the nursing members. The work of the Council and its staff is funded by nurses themselves from their practising fees.

## What is the role of the Council?

The role of the Council is to protect public safety by setting standards for nursing in New Zealand. These standards apply to:

- + all nursing programmes in New Zealand that educate nurses
- + nurses working in New Zealand
- + overseas nurses who want to work in New Zealand.

## He aha oti te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga?

He whakahaere te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga i whakatūria i raro i te Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCA). Tokoiwa ōna mema – tokoono ngā tapuhi me ētahi māngai tokotoru noa mō te iwi whānui. Mā te Minita Hauora e whakatū te nuinga o ngā mema Kaunihera heoi anō ētahi o ngā mema tapuhi ka pōtitia e ngā tapuhi. Ko ngā mahi a te Kaunihera me āna kaimahi nā ngā tapuhi ake i utu mai i ā rātou utunga mahi.

## He aha te wāhi o te Kaunihera?

Ko te wāhi o te Kaunihera ko te tautiaki i te haumarutanga o te iwi whānui mā te whakarite i ngā paerewa tapuhitanga ki Aotearoa. E pā ana ēnei paerewa ki:

- + ngā hōtaka tapuhitanga katoa i Aotearoa e whakaako ana i ngā tapuhi
- + ngā tapuhi e mahi ana ki Aotearoa
- + ngā tapuhi nō tāwāhi e hiahia ana ki te mahi ki Aotearoa.

## What does the Council do?

### The Nursing Council oversees the standard of nursing education

The Council approves and regularly monitors all nursing programmes being offered by education providers. It ensures standards are consistent nationally by setting a state examination that new nurses have to pass before they can practise.

### The Nursing Council registers nurses

The Council maintains the New Zealand Register of nurses. You can also check on the Register on our website to see if a nurse has an Annual Practising Certificate.

All nurses working in New Zealand, whether they have qualified in New Zealand or overseas, need to be registered. Nurses with international qualifications are an important part of the New Zealand workforce and if they are registered here, they have met the same standards as locally educated nurses.

In order to be registered nurses have to demonstrate that they have:

- + relevant educational qualifications
- + good English language and communication skills
- + not been convicted of a serious offence or been found guilty of misconduct
- + not got a physical or mental condition that stops them being able to practise safely.

## He aha te mahi a te Kaunihera?

### E tiroiro ana te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga i te paerewa mātauranga tapuhitanga

E whakaaetia ana, e aroturuki auautia ana e te Kaunihera ngā hōtaka tapuhitanga katoa e whakaratohia ana e ngā kaiwhakarato mātauranga. E whakatūturutia ana e ia kei te ōrite ā-motu ngā paerewa mā te whakarite i tētahi whakamātautau ā-motu me pāhi rawa ngā tapuhi hou e āhei ai rātou te mahi.

### Ko te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga kei te rēhita i ngā tapuhi

Ko te Kaunihera kei te tiaki i te Rēhita o Aotearoa mō ngā tapuhi. Ka taea hoki ekoe te tiroiro i te Rēhita i tā mātou paetukutuku kia kite mēnā kei tētahi tapuhi he Tiwhikete Mahi ā-Tau.

Me rēhita ngā tapuhi katoa e mahi ana ki Aotearoa, ahakoa i whiwhi tohu mātauranga rātou i Aotearoa, i tāwāhi rānei. He wāhi hira tonu o te rāngai kaimahi o Aotearoa ngā tapuhi whai tohu mātauranga ā-ao, ā, ki te mea kua rēhitatia ki konei, kua tutuki i a rātou ngā paerewa ōrite a ngā tapuhi i ākona i konei. Kia rēhitatia hei tapuhi me whakaatu mai ia kei a ia:

- + ngā tohu mātauranga tika
- + te reo Ingarihi pai me ngā pūkenga whakawhiti kōrero
- + kāhore ia i whakaharaina ki tētahi hara tino kino, i whakaharaina rānei ki tētahi mahi he
- + kāhore i a ia tētahi mate ā-tinana, ā-hinengaro rānei e whakakāhore ana i a ia ki te mahi i runga i te haumarū.

## The Nursing Council ensures nurses maintain their competence and fitness to practise

As well as being registered, nurses working in New Zealand need to hold an Annual Practising Certificate. This ensures that nurses keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date. Each year nurses have to declare:

- + how many hours they have worked
- + the ongoing learning and professional development they have completed
- + that they are fit to practise.

If a nurse is not seen to be practising at the required level of competence, the Council will be notified and may require the nurse to complete additional education or to work under supervision for a period. Where there are serious concerns, the Council may suspend a nurse until an education programme has been successfully completed.

## Concerns about the health of a nurse

If a nurse has a mental or physical condition that may impact on his or her practice, the Council will be notified and will take action to ensure public safety is protected.

It may require a nurse to get appropriate care, practise under supervision, or it may suspend the nurse from practice until his or her health improves.

## Conduct concerns

The Council processes complaints about nurses and reviews their conduct. In serious cases it may refer nurses to the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal to ensure they are fit to practise and that their behaviour doesn't discredit the profession. The Tribunal's website is [www.hpdt.org.nz](http://www.hpdt.org.nz)

## E tiroiro ana te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga e mau ana i ngā tapuhi tō rātou kaiaka, tō rātou tika ki te mahi

Āpiti ki te rēhitatanga, me whai Tiwhikete Mahi ā-Tau ngā tapuhi e mahi ana ki Aotearoa. Ka whakarite tēnei kia hou tonu ngā pūkenga me ngā mōhiotanga o ngā tapuhi. Ia tau me whakapuaki ngā tapuhi:

- + e hia ngā hāora kua mahia e rātou
- + te akoako me te whakawhanaketanga taha ngaio haere tonu kua oti i a rātou
- + kei te tika tonu ia ki te mahi.

Ki te kitea tētahi tapuhi kāhore i te mahi ki te taumata kaiaka e hiahia ana, ka whakamōhiotia te Kaunihera, ā, tērā e hiahia pea kia whakaoti taua tapuhi i ētahi mātauranga tāpiri, kia mahi rānei mō tētahi wā i raro i tētahi kaitiroiro. Ki te taumaha ngā āwangawanga, tērā e whakatārewatia e te Kaunihera tētahi tapuhi kia oti pai rā anō i a ia tētahi hōtaka mātauranga.

## Te āwangawanga mō te hauora o tētahi tapuhi

Ki te mea kei tētahi tapuhi he mate ā-hinengaro, ā-tinana rānei ka pā pea ki tōna mahi, ka whakamōhiotia te Kaunihera, ā, ka anga ia ki te tiroiro kei te tautiakiina te hamarutanga o te iwi whānui. Tērā anō ia e hiahia kia rongoātia tikatia te tapuhi, kia mahi ia i raro i tētahi kaitiroiro, kia whakatārewatia rānei taua tapuhi kia ora anō ia.

## Āwangawanga tikanga mahi

E whakahaeretia ana e te Kaunihera ngā amuamu mō ngā tapuhi me te arotake i ā rātou tikanga mahi. I ētahi take taumaha tērā e tukua e ia ngā tapuhi ki te Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal kia tiroirohia kei te tika rātou ki te mahi, kāhore hoki ā rātou whanonga i te whakahē i tēnei mahi ngaio. Ko te paetukutuku a te Taraipiunara ko [www.hpdt.org.nz](http://www.hpdt.org.nz)



## What to do if you have a concern or complaint

If you have had a problem with the nursing care you or someone else has received, there are several options open to you:

- + you can discuss the problem with the nurse
- + you can raise the issue with his or her senior nurse or employer
- + you can contact the Health and Disability Commissioner's office to discuss your concerns on 0800 11 22 33 or go to their website [www.hdc.govt.nz](http://www.hdc.govt.nz)
- + you can contact the Council with your concerns and we will either direct your complaint to the Commissioner or look into the problem for you.

You can contact the Nursing Council on (04) 385 9589, email us at [admin@nursingcouncil.org.nz](mailto:admin@nursingcouncil.org.nz) or go to our website [www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz) to find out more about the Nursing Council's role.



## Te mahi māu ki te whai amuamu koe, awangawanga rānei

Ki te mea he raruraru tōu e pā ana ki te atawhai tapuhi kua whiwhi i a koe, i tētahi atu rānei, he maha tonu ngā kōwhiringa kei mua i a koe:

- + ka taea te raruraru te matapakī tahi me te tapuhi
- + ka taea te take te kōrero atu ki tōna tapuhi matua, tōna kaitukumahi rānei
- + ka taea te whakapā atu ki te tari o te Toihau Hauora me te Hauātanga hei matapakī i ō āwangawanga, waea 0800 11 22 33, haere rānei ki tā rātou paetukutuku [www.hdc.govt.nz](http://www.hdc.govt.nz)
- + ka taea te whakapā ki te Kaunihera me ō āwangawanga, ā, ka tirohia e mātou tō raruraru, ka tukua rānei tō amuamu ki te Toihau.

Ka taea te whakapā ki te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga i (04) 385 9589, imēra rānei ki a mātou [admin@nursingcouncil.org.nz](mailto:admin@nursingcouncil.org.nz), haere rānei ki tā mātou paetukutuku [www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz) mō ētahi atu pārongo mō te wāhi o te Kaunihera Tapuhitanga.



Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri  
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