

31 January 2013

Secretariat  
World Medical Association, Inc.  
13-A Chemin du Levant  
CS 5001  
01210 Ferney-Voltaire  
France

By email: [secretariat@wma.net](mailto:secretariat@wma.net)

### **Feedback on working documents arising from General Assembly, Fortaleza 2013**

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) welcomes the email invitation of 24 December 2013 by the World Medical Association (WMA) to provide feedback on a series of working documents arising from the General Assembly, Fortaleza 2013, as well as on a proposal on the role of physicians and National Medical Associations (NMAs) in addressing the social determinants of health and health equity.

The NZMA congratulates the WMA on the development of the working documents for which comment is being sought. Our association is broadly supportive of the recommendations contained in all seven of the following working documents:

- MEC 195 – Person Centred Medicine REV 4 – Oct 2013
- SMAC 195 – Human Reproductive Material – Oct 2013
- SMAC 195 – Migration of Health Workers – Oct 2013
- SMAC 195 – Reality TV– Oct 2013
- SMAC 195 – Trafficking with Minors – Oct 2013

- SMAC 197 – Aesthetic Treatments – Apr 2014
- SMAC 197 – Physician Well-Being – Apr 2014

Our specific comments are limited to the following working documents.

### **MEC 195 – Person Centred Medicine REV 4 – Oct 2013**

The NZMA strongly supports the concept of person-centred medicine. We note that the preamble in the working document captures the key interacting elements necessary to facilitate this concept – namely, that person-centred medicine is an approach to delivering healthcare that is relationship-based, individualised, holistic and strives to fully empower the individual seeking care. The NZMA understands that although an international initiative to promote person-centred medicine commenced in 2008, no specific WMA policy exists to support the pursuit of person-centred medicine. Accordingly, we welcome the development of this working document and are strongly supportive of the recommendations it contains.

### **SMAC 195 – Migration of Health Workers – Oct 2013**

The NZMA welcomes the proposed revision of the WMA statement on ethical guidelines for the international migration of health workers. We note that the WMA recommends that “countries should not rely on immigration from other countries to meet their health workforce needs”. This recommendation is particularly relevant to the New Zealand context. In 2012, 41.4% of the medical workforce in New Zealand were categorised as International Medical Graduates – the highest proportion among OECD countries. There is broad agreement for the need to reduce this proportion and the NZMA is committed to working with relevant government agencies towards this end. The NZMA also strongly supports the recommendations for NMAs to work with their respective governments and employers to support the development and implementation of an accurate, evidence based workforce plan to ensure that workforce planning and projectors are accurate and medical workforce requirements are met.

### **SMAC 197– Physician Well-Being – Apr 2014**

The NZMA welcomes the development of the proposed WMA statement on physician well being. The NZMA has recently developed a position statement on *Doctors’ health, wellbeing and vitality* that is closely aligned to the proposed WMA statement. Our position statement can be accessed from <http://nzma.org.nz/sites/all/files/pos-health-and-wellbeing.pdf>.

### **The Role of Physicians and NMAs in addressing the Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity (SMAC 195/SDH Meeting/Oct2013)**

We understand that the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has advanced a proposal to develop plans to address the social determinants of health and healthy equity through: i) collection /dissemination of successful clinical practice interventions; and ii) advocacy and policy development initiatives for NMAs. The NZMA recognises the importance of addressing the social determinants of health. Our association has developed a position statement on *Health Equity*. This statement can be accessed from [http://nzma.org.nz/sites/all/files/pos\\_healthequity.pdf](http://nzma.org.nz/sites/all/files/pos_healthequity.pdf). The NZMA would be happy to work with the CMA and the WMA to progress this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these important issues. The NZMA appreciates the important role the WMA is taking by addressing some of the challenging issues confronting the global medical profession and global health. We hope that our feedback on the working documents has been helpful and we look forward to the publication of the final statements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Peterson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Mark Peterson  
NZMA Chair