

28 October 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
COVID-19 Response Minister
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 18 888
Wellington 6130

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 18 888
Wellington 6130

Dear Ministers Hipkins and Little

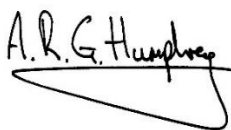
The New Zealand Medical Association has become aware that the group of doctors and other health professionals that have formed the organisation *New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science* are offering an online clinic to provide COVID- 19 vaccine exemption assessment for people who are under the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination Order.

In addition to public statements that the threat of COVID-19 has been exaggerated they have also continued to claim that the Pfizer vaccine is not safe, information on harm is being withheld, and New Zealanders are therefore not able to give informed consent.

In light of these publicly expressed views we are concerned that the doctors providing exemption assessments through the NZDSOS online clinic may do so outside the guidelines that have been set for acceptable clinical reasons and that there are no checks and measures to ensure that does not happen.

We strongly recommend that urgent consideration be given to tightening up the exemption process to ensure the clinical guidelines are followed. This could be achieved by requiring approval of the exemption being given by the Ministry of Health or IMAC on receipt of certified clinical contraindication by the General Practitioner the person is enrolled with.

Yours sincerely



Dr Alistair Humphrey
NZMA Chair

CC – Dr Ashley Bloomfield – Director General of Health