

29 May 2017

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Trade
Parliament Buildings
Private Bag 18 888
Wellington 6160

By email: Todd.McClay@parliament.govt.nz

Health Impact Assessment for Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement

Dear Minister

The medical profession remains deeply concerned by the potential adverse health implications of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). Despite the exit of the US, we understand that New Zealand and Japan have already ratified the agreement, and the remaining countries in the TPP intend to work towards bringing the agreement into force.

We have previously raised several concerns regarding potential risks of the TPP to public health.¹ We are extremely disappointed that—following the US exit from the TPP and before ratification—the opportunity was not used to analyse the potential health impacts and inform New Zealand about those same impacts.

Before committing to bring the agreement into force, we ask again that the Government reflect on the potential health implications and commission a formal, comprehensive, independent Health Impact Analysis (HIA). This analysis should be based on the actual text of the agreement and include input from sector experts. It must also take into account all broad possible impacts on our health system. These include short- and long-term impacts, as well as direct and indirect impacts—including social and environmental determinants of health and health equity. The HIA should also consider New Zealand's ability to continue its current policies, and to develop and implement future policies, for the protection of public

¹ New Zealand Medical Association. Submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the International treaty examination of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). March 2016. Available from https://www.nzma.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/48944/NZMA-Submission-on-Examination-of-the-TPPA.pdf

health. We ask that this HIA be released for full public review, well before any agreement comes into force.

We also wish to bring to your attention concerns expressed by eminent UN experts about the adverse impacts of such free trade and investment agreements on human rights.² We attach a recent NZMA position statement on health and international agreements on trade, investment and services³ that outlines several key principles to which we believe the Government must adhere.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair

Appendix: Who we are

The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with more than 5,500 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.

The key roles of the NZMA are:

- to provide advocacy on behalf of doctors and their patients
- to provide support and services to members and their practices
- to publish and maintain the Code of Ethics for the profession
- to publish the New Zealand Medical Journal.

The NZMA works closely with many other medical and health organisations, and provides forums which consider pan-professional issues and policies.

Attachment

New Zealand Medical Association. Position statement on Health and International Agreements on Trade, Investments and Services. February 2017. Available from https://www.nzma.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/53365/Health-and-international-agreements-on-trade_2017.pdf

² <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16031&LangID=E>

³ https://www.nzma.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/53365/Health-and-international-agreements-on-trade_2017.pdf