



a healthier world through  
sonographer expertise

Wednesday, 8 December 2021

Committee Secretariat  
Pae Ora Legislation Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington. New Zealand

*Submitted online*

Cc: Hon Andrew Little MP, Minister of Health and Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations  
Dr Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, New Zealand Ministry of Health

**Item of business: Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill**

Dear Secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill. I am pleased to represent Australasian Sonographers Association in acknowledging the New Zealand Government's commitment to addressing many of the [Health and Disability System Review](#) recommendations.

There is a strong potential that nationally centralised planning and data collection can support significant New Zealand health system improvements. Such as improved coordination of strategies to reduce the national workforce shortage of sonographers. Something that has become increasingly critical in recent years.

The proposed Bill recognises the need to involve health consumers, hospitals and the primary and community care sector in service planning. However, there needs to be increased recognition of the need to work with the private and non-government health services in planning and delivering health services across New Zealand.

Most New Zealand patients access ultrasound and other diagnostic imaging through private diagnostic imaging services. The ASA recently completed an industry survey of sonographers across Australia and New Zealand. Preliminary data found that only 30% of New Zealand sonographers who responded worked in public health services.

With 70% of sonographers working in private practice, it is essential that these changes to the health system formally recognise the role and importance of non-government health services in meeting the health service needs of people across New Zealand.

**We strongly encourage better recognition of the role of private and non-government health services in the proposed Bill.**

With this change, we believe the proposed changes are a solid first step toward the goal of a new structure and new accountability arrangements for the publicly-funded health system that will protect, promote, and improve the health of all New Zealanders.

If you require any additional information to support this feedback or anything else, please write to me directly at [Jodie.Long@sonographers.org](mailto:Jodie.Long@sonographers.org) or contact the ASA Policy and Advocacy Advisor, James Brooks-Dowsett, by phone at +61 406 998 429 or email to [policy@sonographers.org](mailto:policy@sonographers.org).



We look forward to working with you to ensure all New Zealanders have access to high quality diagnostic medical ultrasound services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jodie Long'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a long, trailing 'g'.

**Jodie Long**

Chief Executive Officer