

Petition of the **Health Consumer Advocacy Alliance**: To establish an independent Patient Safety Commissioner accountable to Parliament.

Petition request

That the House of Representatives establish a fully resourced, independent Patient Safety Commissioner (PSC) accountable to Parliament to take a proactive approach to preventing patient harm, with powers to take or require action.

Petition reason

We believe too many people have been harmed in NZ's health system because of system failures that have not been identified through existing processes. In our view, the HDC, HQSC, ACC and Medical Council lack independence. Existing processes primarily only respond after harm has already occurred, rather than being able to proactively assess and prevent systemic harm. We see a better model than the NZ status quo in the English and imminent Scottish independent Patient Safety Commissioners.

Where is the independent voice in our health system?

Constant news articles with terrible experiences of those receiving care in our health system says it all.

Those who have been harmed should not have to fight to prevent others from suffering the same harm, over and over again.

Health professionals are struggling, many are frustrated, overworked and overwhelmed and they need more support.

An independent Patient Safety Commissioner would focus on our health system as a whole, looking for the gaps, proactively working with our health agencies to encourage transparency, and ensure accountability for fixing the systemic issues that enable more harm to continue.

Things must change!



This is why we need an independent Patient Safety Commissioner



Not more of the same!

Anatomy of a health crisis

By the numbers



HOME | ON AIR | HEATHER DU PLESSIS-ALLAN DRIVE | AUDIO

Frontline health services facing cuts as Health NZ faces budget crunch

ON AIR | HEATHER DU PLESSIS-ALLAN DRIVE

Newslink 2B 36m, 22 Apr 2024, 4:44pm

iHeart
Margie Apa: Health NZ CEO talks whether frontline services are facing cuts - Health...
Heather du Plessis-Allan Drive



Consider the current state of our health system.

1. Health professionals – do you feel safe in your work place, is your expertise validated, if you raise concerns is appropriate action taken?
2. Health advocates – do you feel your concerns are taken seriously? Is anything really changing and do you feel heard?
3. Patients/consumers do you and your whanau have access to quality care from competent health workers with have enough time to listen and care for your needs?

The disestablishment of roles and loss of jobs for health staff working for our health entities is absolutely affecting them. What is the true impact? What is the cost?

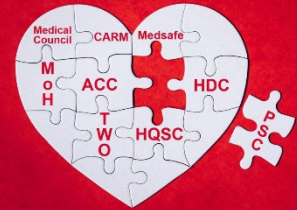
Unsafe staffing levels in hospitals, GP's/Nurses/health workers over-worked and underpaid feel undervalued.

A Patient Safety Commissioner is the missing piece of the puzzle!

**THE MISSING PIECE OF
THE PUZZLE:**

**AN INDEPENDENT PATIENT
SAFETY COMMISSIONER**

WORKING
WITH THE
OTHER
HEALTH
AGENCIES.



Who is challenging the status quo?

1. Do you know what powers our existing health entities have, and what they can and cannot do?
2. Do you feel there is enough transparency regarding what is happening behind the scenes?
3. With the state that our health system is in, do you feel that an independent voice and scrutiny of our health system as a whole is needed?
4. Do you want someone to take a proactive role in sorting out the mess our health system is in, instead of the reactive response we have now?

Why this role will make a difference; a PSC is not more of the same!

The PSC would be a **proactive** force, ensuring that there is less siloing of information within existing agencies, and that there is a timely, cohesive and concerted response to evidence and patterns of harm.

A PSC would look through a different lens to ensure all health entities are truly investing in patient safety, as opposed to it looking good on paper or being tokenistic.

A PSC will both support and work collaboratively with our health entities and govt to make meaningful change.

A PSC will be a visible voice for consumers, for vulnerable New Zealanders that are not being heard in our health system now.

**AN INDEPENDENT PATIENT
SAFETY COMMISSIONER** would
work in harmony with all of our
health entities
providing
support and
guidance,
acting as the
glue that brings
them all together



What do we have now?

- HDC primarily focuses on harm after the event, as does ACC and the Medical council.
- ACC safety/prevention initiatives do not include treatment injury, and their harm data capture systems do not align with other health entities databases, so it is not accurate. Their response to monitoring harm is reactive, after harm has already been done.
- HQSC focuses on patient safety, improving consumer engagement but is not independent and has no legislative enforcement powers.
- National Quality Forum meetings remain behind closed doors with little transparency about what discussions take place and what actions are taken when concerns/ red flags are raised.
- The Ministry of Health/Government have limited powers over the private sector and unable to enforce urgent change when needed.
- CARM and Medsafe have limited legislative powers and ability to identify harmful medicines/devices and react with a timely response, even when red flags have been raised.
- Te Whatu Ora have no legislative mandate, are not independent and do not have an independent voice.

Because our current harm reporting processes are woefully inadequate, it makes it difficult for our health entities to successfully identify, monitor or address harm. This means it keeps on happening!

The Health Consumer Advocacy Alliance are asking for change!

Please sign our petition

[Petition of Health Consumer Advocacy Alliance : Establish an independent Patient Safety Commissioner accountable to Parliament.](#)

Read our blog on our website [Health Consumer Advocacy Alliance](#)

Read our 2023 Risk of Harm Report

[Are our Medical Harm Reporting Systems Effective? Are People Safe? A Discussion Document](#)