MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND
TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Consultation - Naming policy

Submissions close: 11:59pm, 11 January 2027

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

What you share helps shape the future of the profession.

This document includes:

- Background
- Proposed changes
- FAQs.

Consultation

Overview

Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) invites practitioners and stakeholders to provide feedback on its Naming Policy. The policy outlines how the Council may publish the name of a practitioner following an order or direction made about the practitioner under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act). The policy outlines factors that the Council may take into consideration when deciding if it is going to publicly name a practitioner who is or has been the focus of an investigation and disciplinary matter.

Background

The Act requires the Council to have a Naming Policy that outlines its decision-making process around the release of a practitioner's name, a summary of findings, and the effect of an order or direction. An order or direction occurs in this instance as a consequence of the practitioner being involved in a disciplinary process and most often requires the practitioner to engage in some activity.

This is the second review of the Council's Naming Policy.

The Act (s157B) outlines the purpose of the Naming Policy which is to:

- Enhance public confidence in anaesthetic technology and medical laboratory science practitioners, and disciplinary procedures, by providing transparency about the decision-making processes; and
- Ensure anaesthetic technology and medical laboratory science practitioners whose conduct has not met the expected standards may be 'named' where it is in the public interest to do so; and
- Improve the quality and safety of health care.

It also instructs the Council on the content of the policy. Read the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 here.

Proposed update to the Policy

Following a routine review of the policy, the Council is proposing the following change:

1. Add a reference that the Council has an information sharing agreement with:
    a. Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board, and
    b. Te Pou Tautoko Pūtaiao ā-Rongoā | Medical Sciences Secretariat.

The Council operates under a shared secretariat model with another Responsible Authority. The information sharing agreement exists to formalise the terms of sharing of information between these organisations for the purpose of performing statutory functions under the HPCA Act. The Council may also share information under the terms of the Naming Policy with other Responsible Authorities where the health or safety of the public may be at risk.

for consultation

The Council is seeking feedback from practitioners, stakeholders, and the public which will help inform its decision. The consultation will run from **25 November 2026 to 11.59pm, 11 January 2027**. Practitioners, stakeholders, and the public are invited to give feedback by submitting written responses to mscconsultations@medsci.co.nz.

The draft policy is available on the website **Consultation** item: **MSC Naming Policy**.

Privacy note: Because this is a public consultation, the Council may publish submissions on its website. If feedback from an individual is published, personal and contact information will be removed.

Use of AI: The Council may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist with analysing consultation responses, including identifying themes and preparing summaries. Any use of AI will comply with the Privacy Act 2020 and align with relevant New Zealand government guidance on responsible AI use. Personal and confidential information will not be analysed by AI, and AI assisted output will be reviewed for accuracy and fairness. AI will not replace human judgement and decision-making.

The Council will carefully review all the feedback received prior to finalising the pathway and policies. The outcome of the consultation and final statement will be published on the website and communicated to practitioners.

Specific questions about the consultation can be directed to mscconsultations@medsci.co.nz with the subject line: **MSC Naming Policy consultation.**

Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of the policy?
Under sections 157A to 157I, the Council is required to have a Naming Policy which outlines the circumstances in which the name of a practitioner will be published under section 157 of the Act.

Who does the policy apply to?
The policy applies to all practitioners who are registered with the Council, including those on the register who do not currently hold a practising certificate.

Why is the Council reviewing the policy?
The Council is required under the Act to keep its Naming Policy up to date. Currently the policy is scheduled for a general review and consultation every three years.

Why is the Council consulting on the policy?
Consultation gives practitioners, stakeholders, and the wider public the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to the policy, and whether it remains fit for purpose.

What information does the Council publish when naming?
Information that is published by the Council must comply with sections 157 (1) of the Act. This includes:

- The effect of the order; and
- A summary of findings; and
- The name of the health practitioner.

For consultation