

## SURVEY

# SURVEY FOR AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND NZDF MEDICS ABOUT REGISTRATION UNDER THE HPCA ACT

In New Zealand health professions can be regulated under the Health Practitioners' Competence Assurance Act 2003 if the government thinks a particular profession has the potential to pose a risk of harm to the health and safety of the New Zealand public. It's possible ambulance officers and New Zealand Defence Force medics could fit into this category.

If ambulance officers and medics were regulated individual practitioners would have to be professionally registered if they want to work within the scope of practice which defines what the profession can do. It's possible for some levels of ambulance officers and medics could be regulated and not others. If this was the case, only those people practicing at those levels need to be registered.

There are pros and cons to being registered and people have different views. Over the past few months the sector has been discussing professional registration, through a series of Discussion Forums, Focus Groups and online discussions.

**WE NOW WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEW.** This is your chance to have your say about professional registration for ambulance officers and medics. The results of this survey will be used to inform the Trustees of Ambulance New Zealand and the service providers so they can make a decision as to whether to apply for ambulance officers and medics to be included under the HPCA Act.

**Every single ambulance officer and medic's opinion on this subject is important. If you don't have your say, the decision will be made without your input!**

**REGISTRATION  
COULD AFFECT YOU.  
TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO ANSWER  
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND  
MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD.**

This survey is being carried out by independent contractors.

All responses are anonymous and the survey does not capture individual's details.

## 1. Purpose of registration

What do you think the main purpose of professional registration for ambulance officers and NZDF medics is: (choose only one)

- To be recognised by members of the public and other health practitioners as a health profession in its own right
- To protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public

## 2. Meeting the Criteria for Registration

Please rate the following statements between 1 and 5, where

1 is 'strongly disagree'

2 is 'somewhat disagree'

3 is 'don't agree or disagree'

4 is 'somewhat agree'

5 is 'strongly agree'

	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance officers and medics have the potential to pose a risk of harm to the health and safety of the public while carrying out their professional duties or performing medical interventions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
It's in the public interest that ambulance officers and medics be professionally registered	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Existing mechanisms to make sure ambulance officers and medics are competent are sufficient to protect the health and safety of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The benefits to the public of professional registration of ambulance officers clearly outweigh any potential negative impact of such regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration is possible to put in place for ambulance officers and medics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration is practical to put in place for ambulance officers and medics	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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### 3. Benefits of registration

During the discussion forums and focus groups some ambulance officers and medics have identified the following areas where they think there would be a benefit relating to professional registration.

Please rate the following statements between 1 and 5, where

- 1 is 'strongly disagree'
- 2 is 'somewhat disagree'
- 3 is 'don't agree or disagree'
- 4 is 'somewhat agree'
- 5 is 'strongly agree'

	1	2	3	4	5
Professional registration would help ambulance officers and medics be seen as competent health care professionals by other health professions such as doctors and nurses	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration would help ambulance officers and medics be seen as competent health care professionals by the general public	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration would help to maintain and improve the clinical standards of ambulance officers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration would make it easier to transfer skills across organisations and to secure employment anywhere in New Zealand and overseas	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration could mean ambulance officers are funded for treating patients in the community, not just for transporting people to hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration would provide more ongoing training opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration may mean our employer provides us with more continuing education	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration would mean certain activities would become restricted and only be carried out by registered ambulance officers and medics with the appropriate qualifications or ATP	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Are there other benefits of registration that you think are important. If so, please outline them here:**

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#### 4. Potential impacts of registration

During the discussion forums and focus groups some ambulance officers and medics identified the following areas where they think there might be an impact relating to professional registration.

Please rate the following statements between 1 and 5, where

- 1 is 'strongly disagree'
- 2 is 'somewhat disagree'
- 3 is 'don't agree or disagree'
- 4 is 'somewhat agree'
- 5 is 'strongly agree'

	1	2	3	4	5
Professional registration might mean you need to do more Continuing Clinical Education each year	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration makes each individual responsible for maintaining their own skills and competence	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Even if individuals don't have to pay for it themselves, professional registration would have a cost to the sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The cost of professional registration might lead to funding shifts in the sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ambulance officers and medics who don't maintain their skills to required levels might have to practice at a lower level or be de-registered	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration might discourage volunteer ambulance officers and medics from practicing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The continuing education our employers currently provide for us might no longer be available to us	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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### 5. Impacts of Registration

Now using the same questions as above, where some ambulance officers and medics think there might be an impact relating to professional registration, please rate the following statements between 1 and 5, where

- 1 is 'very concerned'
- 2 is 'somewhat concerned'
- 3 is 'may or may not be of concern'
- 4 is 'somewhat unconcerned'
- 5 is 'not at all concerned'

	1	2	3	4	5
Professional registration might mean you need to do more Continuing Clinical Education each year	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration makes each individual responsible for maintaining their own skills and competence	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Even if individuals don't have to pay for it themselves, professional registration would have a cost to the sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The cost of professional registration might lead to funding shifts in the sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ambulance officers and medics who don't maintain their skills to required levels might have to practice at a lower level or be de-registered	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Professional registration might discourage volunteer ambulance officers and medics from practicing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The continuing education our employers currently provide for us might no longer be available	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Are there any aspects of registration that are of concern to you? If so, please list:**

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**6. Should ambulance officers and medics be registered**

Do you think ambulance officers and NZDF medics should be registered as health professionals under the HPCA Act:

- 1. Yes – everybody practicing as an ambulance officer or a medic
- 2. Yes – only certain groups of ambulance officers and medics
- 3. Not sure – I don't have enough information about professional registration to make a decision
- 4. Not sure – the pros and cons seem to balance each other
- 5. No – I don't support professional registration

**Please detail why you think this:**

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**If your above answer was 2, please complete question seven below; otherwise please go straight to question eight.**

**7. What Practice Levels should be registered**

If professional registration was introduced for ambulance officers and medics, it should include: (tick all boxes that you think should be included)

- 1. Advanced Life Support
- 2. Intermediate Life Support
- 3. Basic Life Support
- 4. First Responder

**Please explain why you think this**

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**8. Is the work you do in ambulance:**

- 1. Paid
- 2. Volunteer

**9. Describe the location you do your primary ambulance/medic work in:**

- 1. Metro/main city
- 2. Provincial town
- 3. Rural town
- 4. Remote/isolated
- 5. New Zealand Defence Forces

**10. How many individual shifts do you work during an average month:**

- 1. Less than three
- 2. Three to six
- 3. Six to ten
- 4. More than ten

**11. How many years have you worked in ambulance services or as a medic:**

- 1. Less than one
- 2. 1 – 5 years
- 3. 6 – 10 years
- 4. 10 – 15 years
- 5. More than 15 years

**THANK YOU.**

