



Att: Chai Chuah
Ministry of Health
Wellington

5 October 2015

Dear Chai

The president and council of Occupational Therapy New Zealand Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa warmly invites you to meet for a discussion at their council meeting on either Friday 6 or Saturday 7 November 2015.

Occupational Therapy New Zealand Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa Inc. (OTNZ-WNA) was established in 1949. It is the professional membership body for occupational therapists in New Zealand. OTNZ-WNA is the third largest allied health professional body in New Zealand. In paying due regard to the provisions, and to the spirit and the intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the treaty of Waitangi), OTNZ-WNA has been modelling a treaty relationship governance model since the beginning of 2015.

Ideally 11.00 – 12 o'clock followed by lunch on either day would be our preference however we will schedule to suit your availability. We are located at iPayroll house, level 3, 93 Boulcott Street (next to Boulcott Bistro), Wellington CBD.

You will be meeting with our team of 7 councillors that collectively represent a reasonable portion of Occupational Therapy areas of practice.

One of our objectives for this meeting is to validate that we understand your vision for the New Zealand health system and how the well regarded holistic approach occupational therapy practitioners' offers might underpin this. We were pleased to note that you see an important role for allied health professionals in the future of New Zealand's health system.

As allied health professionals, occupational therapists are also concerned at the increasing demand on our health system, particularly with our ageing population, living with long-term conditions, the increasing incidence of obesity, and the challenge of technological advancement and rising public expectations. All of these elements are combining to place unsustainable pressures on hospitals, general practices and aged care providers. We note that these are issues that are being experienced globally in the health systems of many countries.

In summary we would be delighted to welcome you to a discussion with council to"

- verify our understanding of the planned future state of New Zealand's health workforce
- ensure that you have an informed understanding of what an Occupational Therapist is and what they do



- explore how OTNZ-Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa can assist its members to ready themselves for any changes planned by the health ministry in terms of service delivery
- ensure that our member's capabilities are not overlooked and that they are provided the opportunity to up-skill/re-skill as appropriate
- generally provide a forum for sharing of information and raising concerns around risk exposure.

We look forward to confirmation by return.

Yours sincerely

Peter Anderson
Executive Director

Occupational Therapy New Zealand | Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa

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