

15 September 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Re: Endorsement of the Mandaluyong Patient Safety Declaration

Dear Minister Brown,

As representatives of health agencies, professional associations, consumer organisations, and advocacy groups across Aotearoa New Zealand, we write jointly to convey our unequivocal support for the **Mandaluyong Declaration on Patient Safety**, adopted at the 7th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety in the Philippines on 3–4 April 2025.

This Declaration is the latest in a long line of international commitments, from London, Bonn, Tokyo, Jeddah, Montreux, and Santiago, and aligns with World Health Assembly Resolution 72.6 on Global Action on Patient Safety and the **Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030**. It is not merely aspirational: it is an urgent call to action to embed patient safety as a universal imperative and a core pillar of resilient, equitable, and people-centred health systems.

On 8 July 2025, Aotearoa New Zealand formally adopted the Declaration. We strongly endorse its commitments, in particular the pledges to:

- **Strengthen global collaboration** through transparency, shared learning, and mutual accountability, grounded in solidarity and collective responsibility.
- **Advance leadership and governance** in patient safety by embedding it at all levels of the health system and prioritising investment, especially in primary and community care.
- **Integrate patient safety into disaster and emergency preparedness**, recognising the increasing impact of climate change, emergencies, and health system disruptions.
- **Embed people-centred and equity-driven approaches** that value the lived experiences of patients, whānau, and communities, ensuring their voices actively shape safer and fairer systems of care.

For us, this Declaration is both a **global commitment** and a **local imperative**. To give it meaning in New Zealand, decisive action is required to:

- Embed patient safety and equity as guiding principles in all health reforms, legislation, policy, and service design.
- Strengthen national governance and accountability frameworks for safety.
- Invest in workforce capability, leadership, and cultural change to foster a genuinely inclusive learning culture.

- Ensure patients, whānau, and communities are engaged as true partners in shaping safe and effective care.

We emphasise that advancing patient safety is inseparable from advancing equity. In Aotearoa New Zealand this requires upholding and honouring **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**, ensuring partnership, protection, and participation are at the heart of all actions. Patient safety must be achieved equitably for all communities, especially Māori, Pacific peoples, and other vulnerable populations, dismantling systemic barriers and embedding cultural safety in every aspect of care.

We urge the Government to demonstrate leadership by turning these commitments into visible, measurable, and sustained action at national, regional, and local levels. This is an opportunity for New Zealand to stand resolutely against avoidable harm and to show that the safety of patients, whānau, and communities is non-negotiable.

We stand ready to work in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora, the Health and Disability Commissioner, the National Quality Forum, the Health Quality & Safety Commission, ACC, and all system partners to ensure this vision is realised.

Health Consumer Advocacy Alliance

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Endorsed by

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Kate Weston, Executive Director, Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi o Aotearoa | College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc

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