



Kia ora Dr Jacques Imbeau

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Chief Commissioner Paul Hunt regarding the concerns of the *New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science* about the rollout of the Pfizer vaccine.

The Covid-19 pandemic – and the measures undertaken by the Government to combat it – are unprecedented and place significant restrictions on New Zealanders’ human rights. As New Zealand’s national human rights institution, the Human Rights Commission must hold the Government and other duty bearers to account to ensure that any measures now in place are proportionate and safeguard Te Tiritio Waitangi and human rights, even if at times the views expressed may seem contrary to popular opinion. We are working to ensure human rights are safeguarded at this time.

The current context, including the vaccine rollout, concerns several key human rights issues including the right to informed consent. We have provided guidance on our website regarding the vaccine rollout and human rights *see* <https://www.hrc.co.nz/enquiries-and-complaints/faqs/covid-19-vaccine-and-human-rights/>. Transparency and access to information are essential components of human rights and go hand in hand with accountability. Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights notes that the right to freedom of expression includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information from the State. People have the right to know what is happening in a public health crisis. Transparency is essential in the vaccination process. Information about the vaccine should be available in readily understandable formats and languages. Being open and transparent, and involving those affected in decision-making, is key to ensuring people participate in measures designed to protect their own health and that of the wider population. Vaccination programmes should be developed on the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination, which guarantee access, availability and accessibility of resources without any distinction due to economic situation, ethnicity, gender or any other human or social conditions. COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary and vaccines may not be forcibly administered.

If individuals have concerns about the medical treatment they have received as part of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, they should submit a complaint to the Health and Disability Commissioner <https://www.hdc.org.nz/making-a-complaint/make-a-complaint-to-hdc/>. If any individuals have concerns that they have been discriminated against as a result of their views about the vaccine for religious or ethical reasons, they are encouraged to make a complaint to the Human Rights Commission <https://www.hrc.co.nz/enquiries-and-complaints/how-make-complaint/>.

Ngā mihi

Infoline  
For the Chief Commissioner's Office  
Human Rights Commission

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21 July 2021

Mr. Paul Hunt  
Chief Human Rights Commissioner  
New Zealand Human Rights Commission  
Te Kahui Tika Tangata  
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## URGENT

Dear Chief Human Rights Commissioner;

We are a group of very concerned physicians, dentists and scientists: New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science (NZDSOS). <https://nzdsos.com/> who have gathered to collectively express concern about the roll-out of the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine in this country. We are particularly concerned about the dangers posed to the health of recipients of the vaccine, the lack of true informed consent, the exaggeration of the threat of covid-19, and the intended use of the vaccine in children. We write to you to express further concern about the overreach of the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) which has in effect required that doctors support the covid-19 vaccine effort in New Zealand, despite what we see as the lack of evidence supporting it. In our letter we provide the basis for our complaint. As this is a rapidly evolving situation we request an urgent response.

Please find attached our letter of complaint.

For any queries and additional information you can contact the undersigned.

Dr. Jacques Imbeau

Steering Committee - NZDSOS



**Maxine Leilua**

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