

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

11 June 2018

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Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Good morning Ms Taurua

The Ministry of Health has received a complaint, in which it is alleged, you may have committed an offence against section 7 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Section 7 of the Act makes it an offence to use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations or descriptions stating or implying that an unregistered person is a registered health practitioner.

Section 7(1) states:

"A person may only use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions stating or implying that the person is a health practitioner of a particular kind if the person is registered, and is qualified to be registered, as a health practitioner of that kind".

As you are not a health practitioner you must be careful to take care to avoid implying you are.

I note on the Nga Hau E Wha website you describe yourself as a "clinician".

It is the Ministry's view that this description, in the context of your profile, may suggest that you are a health practitioner.

It is important that you are aware of your obligations under the Act, and ensure the language you use does not cause any confusion for members of the public.

The Ministry's approach in enforcing the Act is to first seek compliance. In cases where persons are unwilling to comply with the Act, the Ministry may seek to prosecute. Prosecutions under section 7 carry a fine of up to \$10,000.

Could you please comment on these allegations by **29th June 2018** and any plans you have to ensure compliance with the Act?

Yours sincerely



Vicki Blake
Senior Enforcement Advisor
Protection Regulation and Assurance

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