



Podiatrists Board Statement on COVID-19 26th March 2020

We advise that the Ministry of Health is moving to increase the capacity of the health workforce to deliver essential health services.

They are seeking expressions of interest from health and care professionals who are able and willing to work for a limited amount of time as part of the national strategic approach to managing COVID-19.

They have already been asking retired health professionals to express their interest in working within the health and disability system, and now they would also like to hear from current health workers who may be available as non-essential services are paused.

They are seeking people to work in both general and clinically specialised roles as they scale up the health and care workforce. People will be matched to roles based on their competencies, and appropriate training and oversight will be provided (where required) to ensure safe practice.

The Ministry of Health has put in place a system to nationally coordinate the matching of supply and demand. This means understanding who is available to work, and matching them to roles that need to be filled in the sector. Some of these will be contact roles, while others will be supporting services such as Healthline and contact tracing, which can be done remotely.

The Ministry of Health is partnering with Accent Health to manage this process on their behalf. For health workers, they will be collecting information about their availability, co-ordinating re-registration with the relevant regulatory board or council where required, and then supporting the process to get into employment quickly.

Employers will be able to log their workforce requests, and then people will be matched to positions. They are aware that demand may exceed supply, and they are developing a prioritisation process to manage this. This will be communicated once finalised.

If you are able to assist with the COVID-19 response please register your interest here <https://tinyurl.com/covid19nz>.

When you make your application, please check the “Other Care Worker” category and in the box Healthcare Experience please include the following:

Podiatrist – Registered Health Professional with the following expertise and specialties

- Infection control with high standards in hygiene and sterilisation
- General and palliative patient care
- Wound Care management
- Disease management – diabetes and co-morbidities.