

Anti-Vaccination Stance Not Covered: Timely Reminder

Clearly most nurses take a professional and evidence-based approach in relation to vaccinations, including when giving advice to patients. A timely reminder in the event of any departure from best-practice

- The Society will not provide representation, assistance or legal services to any member with an employment or professional disciplinary problem arising from an ‘anti-vaccination stance’.
- This includes but is not limited to disseminating or promoting anti-vaccination information and/or refusing to provide vaccination services to clients in line with best practice.
- This is not a freedom of expression issue. Rather it is a matter of adhering to evidence-based practice, meeting ethical obligations and displaying sound professional judgement. Additionally, it would be difficult, if not impossible to find any reasonable grounds or mitigating factors to successfully defend such misconduct (action or omission).
- A clear distinction needs to be made to between providing appropriate information about side effects, risks and benefits for informed consent purposes versus perpetuating anti-vaccination propaganda. Great care needs to be taken however when doing the former to avoid giving credence to the later.
- This is not a new stance, rather it is a long-standing policy. This notice is intended to be a reminder as well as informing new members of the policy.



NURSES SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND Te Kāhui Tapuhi o Aotearoa & Te Uniana o NSNZ

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