

# Consultation on proposed:

Revision of the code of ethics

Introduction of a professional boundaries' standard

Issued: 09 February 2026

Consultation closes: Friday 20 March 2026

## 1. Introduction

Te Poari Kaikorohiti o Aotearoa | the Chiropractic Board (the Board) is the responsible authority for the chiropractic profession in Aotearoa New Zealand and is responsible for the registration of chiropractors who meet the criteria for registration.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your feedback and input on:

- The Board's Code of Ethics; and
- The Professional Boundaries Standard

### Overview

The principal purpose of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003 is "to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions".

The Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Boundaries Standard are mechanisms the Board uses to achieve this purpose.

Under section 118(j) of the HPCA Act one of the functions of the Board is:

*"...to set standards of clinical competence, cultural competence (including competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori), and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession".*

## 2. Survey and associated documents

The following documents are provided to support this consultation:

- [Link to survey](#)
- [Current code of ethics \(for comparison\)](#)
- [Draft revised code of ethics](#)
- [Draft professional boundaries standard](#)

The [survey](#) will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The Board appreciates the time and consideration taken to provide your feedback.

## 3. The review

The purpose of the review is to develop a Code of Ethics that is fit for purpose for the next five years and beyond. There are important reasons for having a Code of Ethics, these include:

- a. stating the values held by the profession and the behaviours expected of chiropractors;

- b. setting requirements for chiropractors in their everyday interactions with patients, whānau, other practitioners, providers, and organisations;
- c. supporting the integrity of the profession;
- d. providing a benchmark for determining whether a practitioner’s conduct meets expected professional standards, including for disciplinary purposes; and
- e. informing consideration of complaints made to bodies such as the Health and Disability Commissioner.

The review began in 2024, when the Board held workshops around the country with chiropractors to discuss the Code of Ethics and other matters. Interviews were also conducted with a small number of patients at the NZCC student clinic to understand public perspectives on what a Code of Ethics should include and expectations of chiropractors and other health practitioners.

In early 2025, the Board established a Code of Ethics Review Committee comprising of two Board members, two community members, and three chiropractors.

The Committee was provided with background material, including research into codes of ethics (or equivalent) used by other responsible authorities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Committee met over a two-day workshop in Wellington to review this material alongside the existing Code of Ethics and to develop a contemporary and updated Code.

Following the development of the draft Code of Ethics and Professional Boundaries Standard, the Board reviewed the documents. They were also peer reviewed by an independent subject matter expert with extensive experience in professional regulation and health sector complaints and disciplinary processes.

The Board acknowledges the contributions made to the review process to date.

## 4. Making your submission

Let us know what you think of the Board’s proposed Code of Ethics and Professional Boundaries Standard by providing your response through the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DJK8FWH>

Alternatively, submissions may be emailed to: [admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz](mailto:admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz).

The Board may consider or reject submissions received after the closing date at its discretion.

## 5. Consultation responses

After the closing date, the Board will consider all submissions and will inform the profession and other interested parties regarding the outcome.

## 6. Closing date for submissions

The closing date for submissions is: 5.00pm on Friday 20 March 2026