

Consultation summary: Nurse practitioner and registered nurse prescriber scopes of practice and associated nursing education programme standards

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our consultation on the proposed amendments to the nurse practitioner (NP) scope and new registered nurse (RN) prescriber scope and associated nursing education programme standards.

The Nursing Council has carefully considered all feedback. The Board has approved a revised NP scope of practice, and a new RN prescriber scope of practice. Education standards have been approved subject to further consultation on prescribed qualifications for the scopes of practice and will be published later in the year.

A detailed report of feedback from the consultation is provided [here](#).

Council Board approved nurse practitioner and RN prescriber scope statements can be found [here](#).

Written submissions

The written submissions we received for this consultation and which we have been given permission to publish can be found [here](#).

What was this consultation about?

Between 23 September and 24 October 2025, the Council consulted on proposed changes to the scope of practice statement and education standards for nurse practitioners (NPs). At the same time, the Council consulted on a new scope of practice statement and education standards for registered nurse (RN) prescribers.

What did we hear from the consultation?

There were 144 responses to the consultation: 100 responses (mainly individuals) were received via the survey and 44 responses via email. In total, we received 115 (80%) submissions from individuals and 29 (20%) submissions from organisations.



Across the consultation, most respondents supported the direction of the proposals, particularly the scope statements. Feedback showed:

- strong support for the RN prescriber scope of practice, with around three quarters of respondents supporting the proposed scope overall
- broad support for the NP scope of practice, with around three quarters of respondents also supporting the proposed changes with additional suggestions
- more mixed views on education standards, especially where proposals involved reducing minimum experience requirements, removing set clinical hours, or changing how NP readiness for registration would be assessed.

Key changes following consultation feedback

Based on this feedback, the Council has:

- removed reference to 'episodes' of care in the nurse practitioner scope statement
- strengthened the nurse practitioner scope statement by being explicit that NPs work autonomously and in collaborative teams, added the development of comprehensive therapeutic treatment plans and the requirement to promote equity, inclusion, diversity, and rights of Māori as tangata whenua.
- added the requirement for nurse practitioners to work within their area of practice as well as competence
- made some minor wording changes to the proposed RN prescribing scope statement.

When will these be implemented?

We will work with the sector to take a phased approach to implementing the new scopes of practice and standards of competence over the next year. Implementation will include changes to education curriculums, accreditation, continuing competence requirements and assessment of internationally qualified nurses.

The scopes of practice will be published in the New Zealand Gazette later in the year, alongside the standards of competence and nursing education programme standards and will come into effect in early 2027.

We will provide more detailed information including resources, guidance and key milestones.

