



Hon David Cunliffe
MP for New Lynn
Minister of Health
Minister for Communications and Information Technology

Respond

Ref No 08003941

05 NOV 2008

Dr Megan McAuliffe
President
New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association
Suite 369
63 Remuera Road
Newmarket
AUCKLAND 1050

RECEIVED
17-11-08

Dear Dr McAuliffe

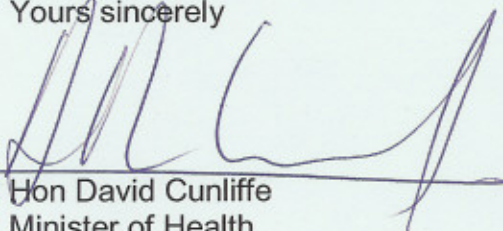
Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2008 expressing your concern over the length of time it has taken to consider the regulation of speech-language therapy under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. I appreciate the concern your organisation feels at the delay in this consideration.

I understand that consultation has been undertaken on whether speech-language therapy should be regulated, and I have asked Ministry of Health officials to complete the consultation process as soon as possible.

You should be aware that the current review of the Act may affect the way in which professions are regulated under the Act. In March 2007, Cabinet directed that no more regulatory authorities be created until this review, which will address the issue of the proliferation of such authorities, is complete. I expect the Director-General's report on the review will be tabled in Parliament in February 2009.

Again, thank you for writing and making me aware of your concerns. I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Cunliffe
Minister of Health