**Clarification on Industry Licensing and Regulation**

It is disappointing to read a newsletter from another professional organization that contains incorrect information. Misinformation like this only serves to divide the industry rather than fostering collaboration for the benefit of all professionals.

To clarify: **there are NO Mandatory National Health Protection Licenses.** If such a measure were to be introduced, it would require public consultation and the agreement of every council across New Zealand.

As many of you know, Tanya Morrison and Kim Ryan (Government Regulations portfolio holder) met with Dr. Shane Reti last year to discuss the national registration of Beauty Therapists, Cosmetic Tattooists, and Nail Technicians. Initially, Dr. Reti believed we might fall under the **Health Practitioners Competency Act**, but after thorough investigation with Tanya and Kim, it was determined that we do not. In fact, for us to be included under this Act, it would require a complete legislative overhaul. Instead, we are better aligned under the **Public Health Act**.

The NZ Board of Professional Skin Therapies stated in their newsletter:-

*Although it’s only the beginning of the year, industry discussions are already intensifying following a contentious submission by the NZ Association of Registered Beauty Professionals. This submission requested that the* ***Ministry of Health*** *and* ***Dr. Reti*** *encourage* ***NZ Local Government (NZLG)*** *to implement a single Health & Hygiene Bylaw nationwide.*

To be absolutely clear: **we have NOT persuaded Dr. Reti to take this action.** Dr. Reti advised that we first work with local councils to establish consistency across the country, as there is currently no capacity within this parliamentary term to introduce new legislation. His suggestion of aligning council regulations was aimed at laying the groundwork for potential future legislation.

At present, all beauty clinics operating in areas with council bylaws are required to be licensed.

Dr. Reti also requested that we provide a framework for councils to follow in order to protect the industry from **unqualified and uneducated operators.** We have recommended that:

* **Therapists should be qualified at Level 4-5** to treat clients.
* **Those performing advanced procedures** must be appropriately trained and work within their scope of practice.
* **All practitioners should hold First Aid certificates and be trained in Bloodborne Pathogens.**

We will be consulting with the industry on this, and we have invited submissions from professionals on any additional considerations that should be included.

This is **not** a revenue-gathering initiative; it is about protecting both your business and the public. **At this time, there is no government proposal for national licensing.**

Unfortunately, with Dr. Reti recently being replaced by Simeon Brown, Tanya and Kim will need to restart this conversation with the Ministry.

We remain committed to advocating for a **safer, more professional** industry, free from unqualified operators.

Please be mindful of misinformation, and if you have any questions, Kim is more than happy to discuss this further.