

Regulators Poll June 2026

CLIENT:	NZ Free Speech Union
POLL DATES:	Thursday 04 June to Monday 08 June 2026. The median response was collected on Sunday 07 June 2026.
TARGET POPULATION:	Adults aged 18+ who live in New Zealand and are eligible and likely to vote.
SAMPLE POPULATION:	Adults aged 18+ who live in New Zealand and are eligible and likely to vote, who are contactable on a landline or mobile phone or online panel.
SAMPLE SIZE:	1,000 respondents agreed to participate, 700 by phone and 300 by online panel.
SAMPLE SELECTION:	A random selection of 7,000 NZ phone numbers (landlines and mobiles) and a random selection from the target population from up to three global online panels (that comply with ESOMAR guidelines for online research). If the call is to a landline, the person who is home and next has a birthday is asked to take part. Those who take part through an online panel are excluded from further polls on the same topic for six months.
RESPONSE RATE:	Multiple call-backs occurred to maximise the response rate. Those who said they were unlikely or very unlikely to vote were excluded.
OMNIBUS STATUS:	The poll was part of a wider omnibus survey for multiple clients. The questions were asked in the order they are listed.
WEIGHTING:	The results are weighted to reflect the overall voting adult population in terms of gender, age, and area.
SAMPLE ERROR:	Based on this sample of 1,000 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.1%, at the 95% confidence level. Results for sub-groups such as age and area will have a much higher margin of error and not seen as precise.

Do you think professional regulators such as the Medical and Nursing Councils should only discipline doctors and nurses for incompetence or negligent provision of healthcare, or should they also be able to discipline doctors and nurses for views they express on social media on contested issues such as international conflicts or the role of the Treaty of Waitangi?

		Count	Col %
Professional regulators discipline	Only incompetence or negligence	543	54%
	Discipline for social media views	177	18%
	Unsure	276	28%
	Total	996	100%

54% of respondents think professional regulators should only discipline for incompetence or negligence, and 18% think they should be able to also for views express on social media.

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Professional regulators discipline	Only incompetence or negligence	55%	54%
	Discipline for social media views	15%	21%
	Unsure	30%	25%
	Total	100%	100%

		Age		
		18 - 39	40 - 59	60+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Professional regulators discipline	Only incompetence or negligence	51%	57%	56%
	Discipline for social media views	22%	17%	14%
	Unsure	27%	27%	30%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

		Area					
		Akl Col %	Wgtn Col %	Chch Col %	Prov Cities Col %	Towns Col %	Rural Col %
Professional regulators discipline	Only incompetence or negligence	55%	52%	42%	53%	56%	63%
	Discipline for social media views	24%	23%	18%	15%	18%	8%
	Unsure	21%	25%	41%	32%	27%	29%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Probed Party Vote						
		National Col %	Labour Col %	TPM Col %	ACT Col %	NZ First Col %	Greens Col %	Unsure Col %
Professional regulators discipline	Only incompetence or negligence	51%	53%	48%	75%	58%	59%	25%
	Discipline for social media views	24%	16%	7%	15%	22%	12%	9%
	Unsure	24%	31%	46%	9%	20%	29%	66%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

If a doctor or nurse who had treated you competently and respectfully expressed a view on social media that you disagreed with on a political issue, would that make you want to no longer be treated by them?

		Count	Col %
Not see doctor/nurse who expresses views on social media you disagree with	Yes	221	22%
	No	563	57%
	Unsure	213	21%
	Total	996	100%

Only 22% say they would no longer want to be treated by a health professional who expressed views they disagreed with.

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Not see doctor/nurse who expresses views on social media you disagree with	Yes	22%	22%
	No	53%	61%
	Unsure	25%	17%
	Total	100%	100%

		Age		
		18 - 39	40 - 59	60+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Not see doctor/nurse who expresses views on social media you disagree with	Yes	28%	15%	23%
	No	51%	59%	60%
	Unsure	21%	26%	17%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

		Area					
		Akl Col %	Wgtn Col %	Chch Col %	Prov Cities Col %	Towns Col %	Rural Col %
Not see doctor/nurse who expresses views on social media you disagree with	Yes	32%	18%	15%	25%	14%	20%
	No	52%	61%	57%	53%	60%	62%
	Unsure	17%	21%	28%	22%	26%	19%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Probed Party Vote						
		National Col %	Labour Col %	TPM Col %	ACT Col %	NZ First Col %	Greens Col %	Unsure Col %
Not see doctor/nurse who expresses views on social media you disagree with	Yes	25%	18%	18%	17%	32%	22%	12%
	No	56%	56%	61%	83%	53%	56%	37%
	Unsure	19%	26%	21%	0%	15%	22%	51%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Parliament has been asked to limit the powers of professional regulators (such as the Nursing Council and Medical Council) so that they could only discipline practitioners for matters affecting clinical competence, patient safety, or how patients are actually treated. Under the proposal, regulators could no longer discipline practitioners for personal political, social or religious views expressed outside of work. Would you support or oppose this change?

		Count	Col %
Parliament only allow regulators to discipline for competence	Support	476	48%
	Oppose	200	20%
	Unsure	320	32%
	Total	996	100%

A plurality of 48% support changing the law to restrict professional regulators with 20% opposed.

		Gender	
		Female Col %	Male Col %
Parliament only allow regulators to discipline for competence	Support	44%	52%
	Oppose	17%	24%
	Unsure	39%	23%
	Total	100%	100%

		Age		
		18 - 39 Col %	40 - 59 Col %	60+ Col %
Parliament only allow regulators to discipline for competence	Support	52%	45%	46%
	Oppose	16%	19%	25%
	Unsure	32%	36%	28%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

		Area					
		Akl Col %	Wgtn Col %	Chch Col %	Prov Cities Col %	Towns Col %	Rural Col %
Parliament only allow regulators to discipline for competence	Support	51%	39%	41%	45%	47%	55%
	Oppose	21%	35%	18%	21%	20%	10%
	Unsure	28%	25%	41%	34%	33%	36%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Probed Party Vote						
		National Col %	Labour Col %	TPM Col %	ACT Col %	NZ First Col %	Greens Col %	Unsure Col %
Parliament only allow regulators to discipline for competence	Support	55%	44%	28%	72%	46%	44%	16%
	Oppose	17%	24%	27%	11%	31%	18%	10%
	Unsure	28%	31%	46%	17%	24%	38%	75%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Net support by party is:

1. ACT +61%
2. National +38%
3. Greens +16%
4. Labour +20%
5. NZF +15%
6. TPM +1%

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