

25 March 2021

Lisa Foster
Chief Executive
Rare Disorders NZ (RDNZ)

By email: lisa.foster@raredisorders.org.nz

Support for national rare disorder framework

Dear Lisa

Thank you for engaging with the NZMA regarding RDNZ's Fair for Rare NZ campaign for awareness and equity for people living with rare disorders and their whānau.

The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. We are pleased to be able to provide formal endorsement of the call for the development of a national rare disorder framework in New Zealand, supporting the over 300,000 New Zealanders living with a rare disorder.

Health equity is crucial to our healthcare system, and equitable healthcare for people with rare disorders is no different. Those living with a rare disorder in New Zealand face inequitable access to diagnosis, treatment, and care. There is significant opportunity to enact meaningful change in our health policy that will benefit those living with a rare disorder and their whānau, and recognise them as a national health priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to support RDNZ and best wishes for the Fair for Rare NZ campaign.

Yours sincerely



Ms Lesley Clarke
NZMA CEO