

**Sexual relationship with patient
(07HDC03930, 5 November 2008)**

Counselling ~ Sexual relationship ~ Neuro Linguistic Programming ~ New Zealand Association of Counsellors Code of Ethics ~ New Zealand Association of Neuro Linguistic Programming incorporated Code of Practice ~ Rights 2, 4(2)

A woman complained that her counsellor developed an inappropriate relationship with her during their counselling sessions, and that he continued to provide counselling while maintaining a sexual relationship with her.

It was held that the counsellor abused his position of trust and sexually exploited his client, in breach of Right 2. He also failed to comply with ethical standards by entering into a concurrent sexual and therapeutic relationship, and breached Right 4(2).

The matter was referred to the Director of Proceedings. The Director did not pursue a claim before the Human Rights Review Tribunal in this matter.