

14 March 2018

Hon David Parker, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Election Access Fund Bill

1. We have considered whether the Election Access Fund Bill ('the Bill'), a member's Bill in the name of Chlöe Swarbrick MP, is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. The Bill would establish an Election Access Fund to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in general elections. A person may be eligible for a payment from the fund if they are a:
 - a. person with a disability who is standing as a candidate, or seeking selection as a candidate, in a general election;
 - b. not-for-profit entity that is organising an election education event; or
 - c. political party.
3. The Bill provides for review of the operation of the fund, and whether improvements can be made, after three years.
4. The Bill also amends the Electoral Act 1993 to provide that the Electoral Commission would administer this fund.
5. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act.

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