Families Commission Amendment Bill

18 May 2012

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:
FAMILIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL

1. We have considered whether the Families Commission Amendment Bill (PCO 16442/3.2) (‘the Bill’) is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (‘Bill of Rights Act’). We understand that the Bill is likely to be considered by the Cabinet Legislation Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 24 May 2012. We understand that the Bill may be subject to further amendment before it is submitted to the Cabinet Legislation Committee. We will provide supplementary advice should this prove necessary.

2. The Bill amends the Families Commission Act 2003 to amend the structure of the Families Commission. The Bill also extends the functions of the Families Commission to include a monitoring, evaluation and research function.

3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed by the Bill of Rights Act. This advice has been prepared by the Public Law Group and the Office of Legal Counsel.

Melanie Webb
Acting Chief Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Counsel

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