

28 March 2018

Hon David Parker, Attorney-General

**Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Oaths and Declarations (Members of Parliament) Amendment Bill**

1. We have considered whether the Oaths and Declarations (Members of Parliament) Amendment Bill ('the Bill'), a member's Bill in the name of Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki 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's purpose is to amend the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 ('the principal Act') to allow members of Parliament to make their oaths or affirmations of allegiance in languages other than English and te reo Māori.
3. Th Bill does this by introducing new s 4B into the principal Act, which enables any of the oaths or affirmations set out in the principal Act to be sworn or affirmed in any other language if prescribed by regulations. Clause 6 introduces a new regulation making power in s 30B to enable the Governor-General to prescribe in regulations other language equivalents of the oath of allegiance that will have the same effect as using the oath set out in s 17 of the principal Act.
4. 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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