

Human Rights Amendment Bill

3 October 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Rights Amendment Bill (PCO 15431/7.0): Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

Our Ref: ATT395/162

1. I have reviewed the Human Rights Amendment Bill for consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. I conclude the Bill is consistent with that Act.
2. The Bill amends the Human Rights Act 1993. The explanatory note provides the Bill enables the establishment within the Human Rights Commission of a full-time Disability Rights Commissioner, with a view to implementing one of the requirements in Article 33 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, being to “maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention.” The Bill also makes changes to the composition, governance arrangements and functions and powers of the Commission to enable it to respond better to emerging human rights issues, in line with Government’s focus on better results from public services. This includes changes to the number of Commissioners and disestablishing the positions of Race Relations Commissioner and Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, but providing that a Commissioner be appointed to lead the work in each of these priority areas.
3. This advice has been reviewed in accordance with Crown Law protocol by Austin Powell, Crown Counsel.

Jane Foster
Crown Counsel

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