

11 July 2014

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

**Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Social Assistance (Portability to Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau) Bill**

1. We have considered whether the Social Assistance (Portability to Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau) Bill (PCO 18355/1.18) ('the Bill') 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 will allow residents of the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau ('Realm countries'), who are otherwise eligible for New Zealand superannuation or a veteran's pension, to apply for those benefits while resident in one of the Realm countries. Currently, eligible New Zealanders can receive their superannuation or veteran's pension in the Realm countries, but they must be resident in New Zealand at the time they apply.
3. 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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