

Official Information (Openness of District Health Boards New Zealand) Amendment Bill

29 August 2006

Attorney-General

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:

OFFICIAL INFORMATION (OPENNESS OF DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS NEW ZEALAND)

AMENDMENT BILL

1. We have considered the Official Information (Openness of District Health Boards New Zealand) Amendment Bill ('the Bill'), a Member's Bill in the name of Dr Jackie Blue, for consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act'). The Bill was introduced to the House of Representatives on 24 August 2006 and is currently awaiting its first reading. We understand that the next Members' day is scheduled for 6 September 2006.
2. The stated purpose of the Bill is to amend the Official Information Act 1982 ('the Act') so that any entity representing one or more District Health Boards, such as District Health Boards New Zealand, is covered by Schedule 1 of the Act. District Health Boards are currently covered by the Official Information Act, however, the effect of the Bill would be to add entities representing one or more District Health Boards to the Schedule.
3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights Act.

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