

14 June 2016

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Act Repeal Bill

1. We have considered whether the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Act Repeal Bill ('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 is a Private Bill in the name of Hon Nicky Wagner and was introduced on 17 November 2015.
3. We were not aware of the Bill's introduction and consequently did not provide advice in our usual timeframes. The Bill was reported back from the Health Committee on 3 June 2016. We have recently put systems in place which will identify when Private Bills are introduced, but these were not in place at the end of 2015.
4. The Bill repeals the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Act 2002 ('the Act'). The Act provided an option for the Foundation to register as a society incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Act was structured so as to become spent should the Foundation become registered under the Incorporated Societies Act. The Foundation registered as an incorporated society on 10 January 2012.
5. 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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