

8 November 2019



Hayley Locke
Clerk of Committee
Education and Workforce Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
ew@parliament.govt.nz

Kia ora Hayley,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Disability Rights Commissioner to present oral evidence on the proposed Education (Vocational Education and Training Reform) Amendment Bill (the Bill) on 16 October 2019. At that appearance, the Commissioner was asked two questions that we undertook to reply on:

- 1) the Commission's view as to whether the proposed new regulatory model limits academic freedom
- 2) whether the Commission had received complaints or dialogue related to academic freedom and the proposals

On the first question, we understand the Ministry of Justice assessed the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act implications of the Bill.¹ The assessment did not raise any implications for academic freedom and the Commission agrees with that view in this case. The Commission has no additional comment to make at this time to that assessment.

On the second question, we searched our enquiries and complaints database for matters relating to the Bill, or to education reform and academic freedom. We did not readily locate any matters related to this Bill and to these topics.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Hancock', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas Hancock
Senior Advisor, Disability Rights
New Zealand Human Rights Commission

¹ <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Vocational-Education-Reform-Bill.pdf>