

The Treasury

Statutes Repeal Bill Consultation Submissions Information Release

Release Document

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, an [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

From: Aidan-Barrett Howard [1]
Sent: Sunday, 25 October 2015 2:15 p.m.
To: Regulation [TSY]
Subject: Submission #2
Attachments: Statutes Repeal Bill 2.docx

Categories:

Following on from a previous submission, I have a further contribution to the Statutes Repeal Bill.
Thank you.
Aidan-B. Howard.

Aidan-B. Howard.
[1]

25 October, 2015.

Submission on the Statutes Repeal Bill - Submission #2

To whom it may concern,

Following on from a previous submission of 13 October 2015, I submit the follow suggestion for a repeal under the proposed Statute Repeal Bill.

4. Privilege Evidence Act 2006 s.58 repeal

Reason: breach of prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religious belief.

This section has been enshrined in English and European law for centuries as a residue of the times when nations were controlled by the Church and by Ecclesiastical Courts. In a parliamentary democracy, they have no legitimate place.

New Zealand is a secular nation. We have no official religion, not even that of our ‘mother country’, England, viz. Anglicanism. The notion that a person with a spiritual or religious belief is granted a special privilege which is denied to non-religious people is anathema to the character of that secularism. It is also anathema to the principles of anti-discrimination which our relevant laws have attempted to address. The notion that a person is exempt from reporting evidence on little more than “spiritual advice, benefit, or comfort” [ss.58(1)(b), (2)(b)] makes a mockery of the severity of the judicial process.

For the most part, ministers of the Church are not qualified in medical care, especially in the relevant field of psychology. While their motives may (arguably) be sincere, sincerity alone is not an overriding virtue which should have the right to control and to manipulate our very legal system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan-B. Howard.