

Draft Incorporated Societies Bill

Submission from

The New Zealand Register of Acupuncturists (Acupuncture NZ) Inc

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Incorporated Societies Bill. It has become increasingly apparent that the current Act is no longer adequate to fully address all aspects of the running of an Incorporated Society in today's world.

Acupuncture NZ broadly accepts and welcomes the changes to the Act, particularly in the area of the disclosure of conflicts of interest and the greater clarity around the resolving of disputes.

Acupuncture NZ also appreciates the extended time frame that has been proposed to implement the changes that will be required to the constitution of societies.

In recognition of the increasing number of Incorporated Societies that are now employing an Executive Officer to manage the operations and affairs of the society, it would be our suggestion that reference be made to this. Section 38 (1) would appear to be the most appropriate place and could be amended to read:

38 Management of society

(1) The operation and affairs of a society may be managed by an Executive Officer (EO) appointed by and working under the supervision of the Committee.

Following on from that, the requirement that the society appoint a Contact Officer (Section 43) should also make provision for the appointed Executive Officer to be that person. It is likely that the EO would be working from the society's office and therefore be more easily contactable than Committee members, particularly in national societies, who may be located in other cities or centres and not be so readily accessible. Section 43 could be easily amended to read:

43 Contact Officer

(3) The society's Contact Officer must be—

(a) either the Executive Officer of the society or a member of the society's Committee (and, accordingly, must not be disqualified under section 39(2)); and

We greatly appreciate the time and effort that has gone into the drafting of the new Act and have confidence that it will lead to greater clarity around governance and better direction regarding the resolving of disputes.