

Submission Policing (Cost Recovery) Amendment Bill 2015

The Cancer Society of New Zealand is dedicated to reducing the incidence of cancer and ensuring the best cancer care for everyone. We are a Not-For-Profit organisation funded by caring New Zealanders.

We advocate for cancer patients, providing a voice on many issues, including cancer detection and treatment. We are the largest non-Government funder of cancer research in New Zealand. We work collaboratively with community groups to advocate for healthy public policy and to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

No matter where people live we provide practical and emotional, free and confidential support services which are also available to family/whanau and friends. Without the contribution of our 3,500 volunteers much of our work would not be possible.

The Cancer Society of New Zealand would like to thank the Law and Order Committee for the opportunity to submit on this bill and wishes to appear before the committee to speak to it.

- 1. The Cancer Society of New Zealand (CSNZ) proposes that Not-For-Profit organisations that fit agreed criteria are exempt from demand services charges. These criteria should be enshrined in the definition of a demand service in the Policing (Cost Recovery) Amendment Act.**

The CSNZ proposes that the definition of demand service recognises the unique characteristics of Not-For-Profit organisations whose activity is entirely funded by the donated dollar and whose service provision is predominately based on input from volunteers.

We maintain that criteria that acknowledges such characteristics of organisations whose work is largely for public benefit (no personal or commercial benefit) could be set. The establishment of such criteria will inform the ongoing development of regulations resulting from this amendment bill.

2. The CSNZ draws attention to the Regulatory Impact Statement (“the RIM”) which states that a number of submitters on the Cost Recovery for certain Police Services consultation paper (“the consultation paper”) commented that Police should not be able to charge for services provided in the interest of the public good.

This supports our proposal in point 1.

3. The Minister may recommend a regulation only if the Minister is satisfied that the Commissioner of Police has done everything reasonable on his or her part to consult the person or organisations that appear to the Commissioner to be affected or likely to be affected by the fee or charge.

The Bill (section 79 C subsection 2) indicates that the process of consultation must include the adequate and appropriate consideration of those submissions.

The RIM states that submissions on the consultation paper showed that:

- Cost recovery would only be appropriate where the benefit of the service is only to an individual or private organisation operating for commercial gain;
- 33% of the submitters indicated that cost recovery of police vetting would only be appropriate for situations where organisations operate for profit or staff vetted are paid employees.
- The majority of submitters favoured exempting vetting of all volunteers.
- The Police favours exemption of charging for vetting for some volunteers.

CSNZ's proposal in point 1 endorses these submission in the RIM; we are concerned that submissions on the consultation paper have not been incorporated adequately.

4. The [Government Policy on Volunteering](#) (2002) states that the Government is committed to reducing barriers associated with volunteering in legislation, policy and practice. Application of the submissions on the consultation paper and our proposal in point 1 will enable this commitment to be met.
5. "It is an option for businesses to recover those costs from the individuals benefitting from the vetting service" (RIM).

The CSNZ is not in a position to recover costs of our services from the individuals benefitting from our services.

CSNZ offers all services free of charge to the New Zealand public to ensure there are no barriers to accessing services. Operational cost are kept to a minimum. Any additional operating cost such as those resulting those of the police vetting service will need to be absorb in our current budgets. Any addition to operating costs such as police vetting charges may result in either a reduction in the services we are able to offer or not using the vetting service and increase the risk to CSNZ staff, volunteers and clients.

References

Cost Recovery Regulatory Impact Statement: <http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/cost-recovery-regulatory-impact-statement>

Government Policy on Volunteering (2002):
[http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Government-Policy-on-Volunteering/\\$file/Government-Policy-on-Volunteering.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Government-Policy-on-Volunteering/$file/Government-Policy-on-Volunteering.pdf)

Contact details

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Online submission form

Law and Order Committee

POLICING (COST RECOVERY) AMENDMENT BILL

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Submission details

Select committee: Law and Order Committee
Item of business: Policing (Cost Recovery) Amendment Bill
Submission date: 2015-02-04
Reference number*: W0LMG90

*Please use this reference number when contacting committee staff about your submission

Contact details

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Request to appear

You have indicated you wish to appear before the committee

Contact committee staff

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Please use your submission reference number in all communications with committee staff.

