

Regulatory Standards Bill



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

June 2025

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Regulatory Standards Bill. As we did at the consultation stage, we strongly challenge undermining the rights of communities in favour of individual property rights. The exclusion of Te Tiriti and a failure to have meaningful engagement with Māori in the development of this Bill unacceptable.

Recommendation: We strongly oppose this legislation and recommend the Select Committee does not progress it further.

Kupu Tūturu | Supporting Points

Item One – This Bill prioritises individual rights and economic efficiency over collective wellbeing and social obligation.

In the proposed legislation, individual rights are overwhelmingly prioritised over common good in decision making. This approach risks eliminating policies that serve collective needs – including equitable housing, environmental and climate policies, and public health projects – as they will not meet strict individual or economic criteria. A just and compassionate Aotearoa requires a focus on collective wellbeing.

Item Two – This Bill fails to recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a binding and relational foundation for lawmaking in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Te Tiriti is not a historical reference point; it is a covenant that defines the constitutional relationship between tangata whenua and the Crown. By excluding reference to it, this Bill deprioritises its legal, moral, and constitutional significance. This threatens decades of work to repair and strengthen Māori-Crown relationships and undermines the wellbeing of Māori and the ability for this relationship to progress into the future.

Item Three– This Bill underestimates the complexity of regulating in a manner that supports long-term change and sustainability.

This legislation's tight focus on immediate economic efficiency and individual rights overlooks the complex, interconnected challenges found in issues such as climate change, the housing crisis, and social wellbeing. The framework risks producing policy that is unfit for long-term, sustainable action on these matters.

Ko wai tātou | Who we are

NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 100 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. Our mission is to call forth a just and compassionate society for Aotearoa, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website - www.nzccss.org.nz.

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