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26 June 2016

Submission related to the Incorporated Societies Act

Clauses 48-55 Officers Duties and 56-65 Conflict of Interest

1. It is essential to ensure the Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO) are not disadvantaged due to their unique role under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This role is to project the voices of Disabled People.
2. Any Officer of a DPO will experience a conflict of interest as the work of the society will benefit them as individuals. Ensure there is a clear definition in place without compromising the Officers personal drive for change which will benefit them personally.

One example is an individual on a Board at the time used the organisation to advocate for changes to the benefit to allow him to travel internationally without having his benefit cut.

3. Within DPOs disabled people play a key role in the governance of the organisation yet experience limited opportunities to hold governance roles previously. This can lead to difficulties in maintaining a focus on the purpose of the organisation.
4. To build these learning opportunities it is essential for general community organisations to allow disabled people to be Board members. For me as a Deaf person I am part of a local Residents Association however this was only possible through a specific application to fund a NZSL Interpreter.
5. It is necessary for the Act and MBIE to facilitate our involvement as Disabled People in governance roles for any society of their choice.

Withheld

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