

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find a brief submission to the Incorporated Societies Bill from Volunteering Canterbury.

We are broadly supportive of the benefits and added professionalism the Act would bring to the sector and to some of our member organisations.

However we do believe that there would be problems faced by existing society trusts, such as ourselves, if they are required to change to incorporated societies. While they may be benefits to some of these organisations, most are running effectively without any significant problems and changes would be unnecessarily onerous. The changes could cause the following issues:

- It would cause significant administration to make the change, and that would place additional demands on volunteers' time and energy.
- There would be additional legal and accounting costs.
- There may be additional marketing and re-branding costs to consider.
- Some groups may need to change land/deed titles if they are property owners.
- Some groups would need to make a change from their current structure, if operating with trustees and committees.

There would also be problems for smaller organisations, in effect the large majority of local community organisations.

While they would fall under Tier 4 of the Financial Reporting Standards, the reporting requirements would be unnecessarily demanding, especially if their annual expenditure is less than \$10,000, e.g. small local arts, community or sports clubs, and put unnecessary pressure on volunteers already putting their energies into these clubs for the benefit of the local community. The changes in the Act could act as a deterrent to those considering a volunteer board position.

Withheld