

Health and Disability Law Committee – Terms of Reference

The Health and Disability Law Committee is a law reform committee established by the New Zealand Law Society Board.

The purpose of the Committee is to:

1. Monitor and comment on proposals for legislative, regulatory, or other change across all areas of health and disability law.
2. Monitor and comment on proposals for legislative, regulatory, and operational change across all areas of the accident compensation scheme, as well as the application of the accident compensation scheme with reference to the purposes of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.
3. Work collaboratively with other law reform committees where there are areas of mutual interest and expertise.
4. Provide advice to the President and Board of the New Zealand Law Society on issues relating to health, disability and accident compensation law.
5. Contribute to advocacy for legislative and operational changes which would improve access to justice and work to identify barriers to access to justice and to the effective administration of justice in related areas of law.
6. Provide advice to the Board of the New Zealand Law Society on potential public interest interventions which raise relevant issues, and contribute to any intervenor submissions.
7. Alongside the in-house Law Reform & Advocacy Team, maintain good working relationships with key stakeholders. This may include attending meetings with Government departments, participating on working groups, and working with other representative organisations.
8. Engage with lawyers working in these practice areas across Aotearoa to better understand issues which impact access to justice, and issues affecting that particular practice area.
9. Liaise with NZLS CLE Ltd (and other key stakeholders) to identify and deliver relevant education programmes, and to encourage on-going learning by practitioners on health, disability and accident compensation issues.

Membership

1. The Committee will comprise of:
 - a. A convenor or, from time to time, two co-convenors;¹
 - b. Ideally 7-8 ordinary members.
2. Collectively, the Committee should have a broad mix of experience and expertise across all areas of health, disability, and accident compensation law. To ensure all areas are covered,

¹ It is recognised that depending upon expertise of convenor candidates, it may be appropriate to have co-convenors: one with specific expertise in health/medico-legal issues and one with specific expertise in accident compensation law.

the Committee must ideally have at least one Committee member practising in each area including (but not limited to) medico-legal, medical ethics, treatment and consent, disability, and accident compensation.