

Secretariat
Transport and Industrial Relations Committee
Select Committee Services
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

15 July 2013

Health and Safety (Pike River Implementation) Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above Bill. The NZMA is the country's largest voluntary pan-professional medical organisation with over 5,000 members. Our members come from all disciplines within the medical profession and include specialists, general practitioners, doctors-in-training and medical students. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and promote professional unity and values, and the health of New Zealanders.

Our comments on this omnibus Bill are limited to Part 1 which establishes WorkSafe New Zealand, a new workplace health and safety agency, as a Crown entity. The NZMA is strongly supportive of the establishment of WorkSafe New Zealand. We note that the Bill's stipulated intention is "to improve workplace health and safety through the creation of a stand-alone agency that has a dedicated focus on health and safety." Occupational health and safety is a vital area for all New Zealanders and we welcome the provisions under Clauses 9 and 10 which outline the objective and major functions of WorkSafe New Zealand.

We look forward to the progression of this Bill into legislation and believe that it will represent a positive development for occupational health and safety in this country. Please note that the NZMA is not seeking the opportunity to make an oral presentation at Select Committee hearings on this Bill.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Peterson
NZMA Chair