

**Social Services and Community  
Committee's**

**Submission on Human Rights  
(Disability Assist Dogs Non-  
Discrimination) Amendment  
Bill**

**10 November 2021**

For more information please contact:  
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## Submitter Details

1. Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH has a duty to reduce of adverse environmental effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956. NMH welcomes the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Human Rights (Disability Assist Dogs Non-Discrimination) Amendment Bill Amendment Bill.

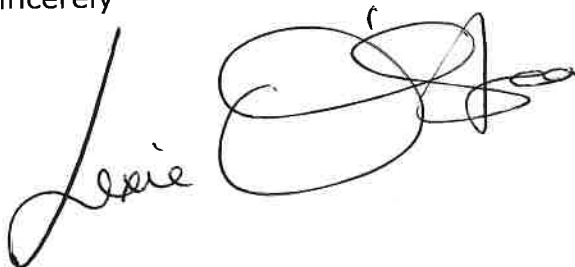
## General Comments

2. NMH supports the proposed Bill that aims to stop discrimination on the basis a person has or uses a disability assist dog. Anecdotal evidence has shown that people have been denied rental accommodation because they have disability assist dogs. Guidedogs UK research<sup>1</sup> shows that over 75% of guide dog owners have been turned away by businesses and services such as taxis, restaurants, and hotels. The proposed changes will enable people to easily assess basic services such as housing and food providers.
3. NMH recommends that once this Bill is passed, funding is made available to communicate this law change broadly.

## Conclusion

4. NMH thanks the Social Services and Community Committee for the opportunity to comment on the Human Rights (Disability Assist Dogs Non-Discrimination) Amendment Bill Amendment Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**  
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<sup>1</sup> [76% Of Guide Dog Owners Illegally Turned Away | Guide Dogs](#)