



PO Box 105-406  
Auckland Central  
NEW ZEALAND

[www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg](http://www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg)

24 November 2000

## RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON LIANZA NIS PAPERS

The New Zealand Law Librarians' Group (NZLLG) offers the following feedback in response to the letter of request dated 26 October 2000 and the call for comments made in *Library Life* 250. In preparing this feedback, the NZLLG has concentrated on issues of particular concern to law librarians, rather than addressing more general issues relevant to the library profession as a whole, except where we feel that the more general issues are of particular relevance to legal information.

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### 1. Response to questions in the letter of 26 October 2000 (addressed to Amanda Cole)

Your questions about the list of stakeholders:

- Any names we should be adding to this list?

Please see **enclosed** copy of the list, with hand-annotations.

- Any contacts amongst them we should pursue?

Not in particular.

- Would you be able to lobby these groups yourself at some stage using the LIANZA Information/Lobbying kit?

In so far as the NIS lobbying ties in with NZLLG lobbying, the NZLLG sees mutual benefit in supporting and participating in LIANZA lobbying initiatives. The NZLLG is already involved in lobbying government on access to, and the publication and archiving of, the full body of legislation. We have provided information on this for the LIANZA Position Paper 'E-citizens, e-government and e-business' (dated 4 July 2000: copy **enclosed**). We regard this as a key matter for the NIS to address.

Your question about the chart:

- Where do you see your group fitting in to this diagram (**enclosed**)?

Our prime area of interest is as you have shown in the diagram, ie relating to 'Rights & Information', under 'Knowledge Resources'. In addition to this we are concerned with 'Knowledge Access' issues, which (in the diagram) is linked via 'Digital Divide'. We are concerned with content **and** access (ie Knowledge Resources **and** Knowledge Access) for Rights and Information. However we have concerns about other topics in the diagram, namely Research, Identity and Standards, all in relation to legal information (and including the full body of legislation).

Please consult us on these matters for further information if / when required.

Information Kit:

- Tips on how to lobby your local MP and the lobbying process

The recent NZLLG Conference (Christchurch 2000) had two speakers on lobbying and their papers may be of use to you: Lianne Dalziel MP and David McGee QC (Clerk of the House of Representatives) were the speakers. John Redmayne attended the sessions and took notes, but you may wish to refer to the papers on the NZLLG website at:

[www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg/papers.html](http://www.knowledge-basket.co.nz/nzllg/papers.html)

- Progress of a parliamentary bill

An excellent diagram that illustrates this process appears on the back cover of every issue of the *Parliamentary bulletin* (copy **attached**). David McGee's paper (above) also has information on this topic.

- Material to give a way or refer to

A list of key LIANZA experts on areas

You may wish to include the NZLLG in this list, for consultation on matters relating to legislation and legal information resources. If so, the contact person should be noted as the NZLLG President, Amanda Cole (contact details at the foot of this document).

The following publication of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives might be a useful reference: *Making a submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee* which is on the Parliament website at:

<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/publications/MakeSubE.pdf>

2. **Feedback on papers published in *Library Life* 250**

Page 2, question 3:

The lack of a heritage paper concerns the NZLLG as there are heritage issues relating to legal information resources that we believe should be addressed by a NIS.

There is no national policy on the archiving of superseded legal publications other than for New Zealand-published materials that come within legal deposit requirements. There is no national co-operative collection-building of legal resources and in these times of rising costs, shrinking budgets and diminishing resources it is becoming increasingly important that some such collaborative initiative be instituted. At present, for example, there is no system for reporting the cancellation of 'last holdings'. Legal research – current, historical and academic - may suffer if there is no national overview and management of the country's legal information resources (ie the full range, including current, historical, New Zealand-published and overseas-published).

Page 3, question 4:

Please refer to the section immediately above, regarding 'more collaboration ... between organisations involved in research'. Yes, we think that the NIS document should address this wider issue for the reasons given above.

Page 12, paper on 'E-government: the information dimension':

- The electronic version of legislation is available free of charge to citizens via the Internet

We suggest that this be expanded to read as follows:

The electronic version of the full range of legislative materials is available to citizens via the Internet, free of charge

- All information available under the Official Information Act is available free on the Web.

NB: The correct citation of this legislation is 'Official Information Act 1982'.

We suggest that this point be removed from the NIS paper as we do not think it necessary or desirable for this amount and category of information to be published in this manner. The task would be too onerous an imposition for government and other bodies and it would be difficult to enforce. As the information is already available for the asking under the Act it seems superfluous to require that it be placed on the Internet.

However if you wish to make a point about the Government's responsibilities re access to government information then perhaps you could reword the point that commences thus:

- Government provides places of free web access...

As it stands, that point is about access rather than content, but it could be reworded to cover both content and access:

- Government to deliver online government information to citizens via government-provided free web access venues. We recommend...

Page 14 at 1.2.1

The correct citation for this legislation is:

Local Government Amendment Act (No. 3) 1996

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We hope that these suggestions will be of use to you and we look forward to on-going participation and consultation in the NIS project. Please contact us if you have any queries.



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**Amanda Cole**  
President  
NZLLG

Manager, Library & Research Services  
Simpson Grierson  
Private Bag 92518  
Wellesley Street  
AUCKLAND  
Phone: (09) 358 2222 ext. 8621  
Fax: (09) 307 0331  
Email: [arc@sglaw.co.nz](mailto:arc@sglaw.co.nz)



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**Anne Paton**  
NZLLG Working Group: LIPS / NIS

Court Librarian  
High Court, Auckland  
P O Box 60  
AUCKLAND 1

Phone: (09) 916 9652  
Fax: (09) 916 9613  
Email: [anne.paton@courts.govt.nz](mailto:anne.paton@courts.govt.nz)