



9 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 10 April 2024, requesting information about the New Zealand Artificial Limb Board (NZALB).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and will answer your questions in order.

1. What date is the next review to take place?

The NZALS will be undertaking the next review later in 2024. As you note in your question, section 14 of the Artificial Limb Service Act 2018 requires these reviews every five years, although for various reasons this could vary slightly.

2. Who will conduct this review within Social Welfare?

The NZALS undertakes the review, as a means of self-assessment, and then they provide this review information to their Crown monitor (the Ministry of Social Development) and their responsible Minister (the Minister for Social Development and Employment) for consideration on any next steps.

Recommendations made by NZALS in the review are non-binding, so the responsible Minister will consider the advice they receive from the Ministry of Social Development on any matters raised in the review.

3. As each review is established to consider "whether the Service should be retained or abolished; and whether amendments to the Act are necessary or desirable (to then report its findings to the Minister).

a. Who has previously provided submissions/opinions and background information to the Reviewer/Reviewing Panel, on previous occasions that the Act was reviewed?

The Artificial Limb Service Act 2018 does not stipulate how the NZALS should undertake their review, so there is no requirement for NZALS to call for or otherwise consider submissions or other external opinions. As mentioned, the review is undertaken by NZALS as a means of self-assessment.

Previously, the Ministry of Social Development had allowed the NZALS to use its Statement of Intent accountability document to show it has reviewed the strategic functions under section 14 of the Artificial Limb Service Act. As a part of undertaking continuous quality improvement, this process has since been reviewed, and NZALS is now required to produce a stand-alone operational review document to fulfil the requirements of section 14.

b. How widely have previous reviews sought to receive submissions for the purpose of reviewing the Act, outside of Social Welfare or the New Zealand Artificial Limb Service?

Previous reviews have been undertaken internally by the NZALS, and then shared with the Crown monitor and their responsible Minister.

c. Who can provide submissions to the Reviewer/Reviewing Panel, prior to, and at the time of the next review conducted, and how do they apply to do this?

There is no mandated submissions process or review panel. Whether the NZALS decides to engage or consult with the sector is an operational matter for NZALS to decide on.

d. If no submissions are sought or required from other stakeholders (perhaps including - the national professional body representing professionals working with Prosthetics and Orthotics, the NZOPA, or others such as consumer organisations, and Funders), by what mandate within the Act is this acceptable as a standard for a review of a Public Act?

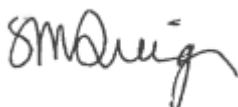
The review process is mandated by section 14 on the Artificial Limb Service Act 2018. The NZALS provides the review document, including any recommendations, to the Crown monitor and responsible Minister. The Ministry of Social Development then provides advice to the responsible Minister.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services