

RECEIVED
26 MAY 2010Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI

Loes Slattery
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Australian Parliament
House of Representatives

BY: Migration

Dear Loes

Thank you for your email to the Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman, Minister of Immigration, with regard to the passage of the Immigration Act 2009 and the implications for New Zealand's immigration health policy. I am responding to your query on the Minister's behalf.

The passage and implementation of the Immigration Act 2009 will not impact on New Zealand's immigration health policy. In the course of the Immigration Act review, a proposal to legislate health policy was considered, but not progressed due to the benefits of retaining flexibility in this area. More information about this can be found in the public consultation document, summary of submissions and *Cabinet decisions for the Immigration Bill - 2006*, all of which are on the www.dol.govt.nz/actreview website.

Immigration health policy is, and will remain, policy certified by the Minister of Immigration. Under the provisions of the Immigration Act 1987, it is "Government immigration policy" certified under section 13A. Under the Immigration Act 2009, it will be "immigration instructions" certified under section 22. For your reference, the immigration legislation can be found at www.legislation.govt.nz.

As you are probably aware, New Zealand's immigration health policy is oriented towards ensuring:

- public health is protected (from communicable diseases)
- there are no excessive demands and costs on health and special education services
- foreign nationals can undertake the functions for which they enter New Zealand.

The detail of immigration health policy is contained in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual. It will remain the same, with minor wording changes for consistency with the new legislation when the Immigration Act 2009 comes into force. It is available at www.immigration.govt.nz.

I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely
Stephanie Coutts
Team manager – Foundations
Immigration Policy
Department of Labour