

Greetings to all

The mayhem in the Sensitive Claims unit of ACC continues

The ACC cost cutting policies of the National government have a devastating effect on the treatment of victims and survivors of sexual abuse. The decision is in the hands of Hon Nick Smith, Minister for ACC, however the voices of people throughout New Zealand have fallen on deaf ears. A prime example of this was when on Tuesday 27 October, at Parliament, a petition of nearly 4000 people to Nick Smith, requesting that the proposed guidelines are not implemented, was presented – however the Minister did not show.

Nick Smith is not taking seriously the concerns of the professionals who have extensive training and experience to be able to support those most vulnerable in our society.

From the time of the announcement of the proposed changes clinicians, professional organisations and victims/survivors of sexual assault have done everything in their power to outline their very real concerns to Nick Smith and the National government.

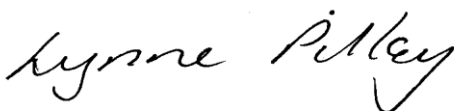
Despite their arguments that these changes would re-victimise victims they have been steadily ignored.

The changes that have been implemented are solely the National government's responsibility and have been imposed despite widespread opposition from victims and survivors of sexual abuse, clinicians and organisations and our communities.

Now to add insult to injury we are informed that ACC do not even have a list of assessors available in areas to assess ACC client's eligibility. Clients are being told to contact their local professional bodies to ask who is qualified to assess them under ACC. This is a shambles, and insult to the professionals and also puts victims of sexual assault at risk.

I have attached my latest press release and earlier press releases on this important issue.

In unity



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