



Office of Hon Peter Dunne

MP for Ohariu

Minister of Internal Affairs

Associate Minister of Health

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Ms Victoria Hinson
Chair
National Ethics Advisory Committee
NEAC@moh.govt.nz

- 2 DEC 2015

Dear Ms Hinson

Thank you for your advice (Report Number 20141482) received on 21 November 2014 entitled *National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) advice on compensation for treatment injury in clinical trials*. I have provided a copy of the report to Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister for ACC, and have met with her to discuss the issue.

Minister Kaye and I are of the opinion that currently we do not have enough information about the scope of the issue and specifically the number of clinical trials failing to comply, or to comply in an expeditious manner with NEAC's guidelines and/or Medicines New Zealand's guidance regarding clinical trials. Our primary concern is to protect New Zealanders who participate in clinical trials. However, we are of the opinion that a change in ACC legislation is not warranted at this time.

I would appreciate further advice on this issue when NEAC provides its advice on its current review of the *Ethical Guidelines for Observational Studies* and *Ethical Guidelines for Intervention Studies*. This could include advice on alternative options to legislative changes, such as more specific details about how ACC equivalent cover should be provided, procedures for dealing with claims and timeliness of resolving claims and disputes and how timely access to compensation, rehabilitation and treatment cover could be improved.

I look forward to receiving NEAC's advice on revised *Ethical Guidelines for Observational Studies* and *Ethical Guidelines for Intervention Studies*.

Yours sincerely

Hon Peter Dunne
Associate Minister of Health