



Hon Iain Lees-Galloway

Minister for ACC

By email to [i.lees-galloway@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:i.lees-galloway@ministers.govt.nz).

CC Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern,

By email to [j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz).

### **Regarding the ACC Board**

Dear Hon Iain Lees-Galloway,

The ACC Futures Coalition is writing to you to express sincere disappointment at the announcement of 20 December 2018 regarding the ACC Board. The appointments and confirmation of the continuation of terms are a missed opportunity for needed change within ACC.

It is noted that Dr Tracy Batten has a strong private sector interest in healthcare provision including as a current Independent Director of Abano Health Care, alongside Trevor Janes. Given Labour's Manifesto promise of keeping ACC public, fair and transparent, and given that the coalition Government may consider extending the scheme, these strong private sector interests may prove to be a barrier to achieving Labour's stated aims.

Your second appointment was John Brabazon, an executive director of Cavell Capital merchant bankers.

The selection and appointment of ACC Board members should be based on people who understand the Woodhouse principles and are best qualified to implement them.

Moreover, these appointments are extremely disappointing as they do not reflect a need for Māori, claimant, worker and union, advocate, disabled persons, and regional New Zealander representation on the Board. Balance on the Board would better reflect the unique interests of these stakeholders.

We understand that ACC may have lobbied you for continuity on the Board, which is why you may have reappointed Paula Rebstock.

We understood from our conversations with you and from messaging from your Government, that you may have supported a change of culture towards a compassionate ACC. It is difficult to see this Board undertaking this change, when this change has not yet been led by the Board and its current Chair in the 15 months since your election.

As you are aware, a change of governance at ACC is needed; could you please advise when is the next set of Board appointments set to take place?

And, given your decision to exclude important stakeholder voices from the Board, we would be appreciative if you could establish processes whereby those voices will be heard directly by the Board and yourself.

Further, we would appreciate a non-automated receipt of this letter and its appendices from your office.

Sincerely,

ACC Futures.

ACC Futures is made up of the following members: Acclaim Otago (Inc), Age Concern, Andrew Beck - Barrister, Dr Andrew Dickson – Individual Member, College of Nurses Aotearoa, David Sparks LL.B, Don Rennie - Individual Member, DPA (NZ) Inc., E Tu, First Union, Forster and Associates, Hazel Armstrong Law, Helen White, Lawyer, Dr Hilary Stace - Health Services Research Centre Victoria University, John Miller Law, Maritime Union of New Zealand, Michael Fletcher – Senior Researcher VUW, Mona Williams - Individual Member, National Foundation for the Deaf, Occupational Therapy New Zealand Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa, New Zealand Audiological Society, NZ Association of Counsellors, NZ Association of Psychotherapists, NZ Council of Trade Unions, NZ Dairy Workers Union, NZ Dental Therapists' Association, NZ Meat Workers Union, NZ Nurses Organisation, NZ Recreation Association, Osteopathic Society of NZ, Peter Sara - ACC Lawyer, Podiatry NZ, Public Service Association, Rail and Maritime Transport Union, Ross Wilson - Individual Member, Professor Sarah Derrett, Schmidt and Peart Law, Associate Professor Susan St John – Individual member, Volunteering New Zealand , Workers' Education Trust , Zindels Barristers & Solicitors.

**Appendix 1: Email from Hazel Armstrong to Hon Iain Lees-Galloway of 12 February 2018 regarding ACC Futures -Board Appointment**

**Appendix 2: Letter from Marilyn Head to Jeff Sissons of 4 April 2018 regarding ACC Board**

**Appendix 3: Denise Powell CV full 2016**

**Appendix 4: Wayne Butson CV Jan 19**

**Appendix 5: CV Hazel Armstrong January 2019**