



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Climate Change Issues
Minister for ACC

MIN 10/1181

Ms Bronwyn Pullar

15 DEC 2010

Dear Bronwyn

I found the tone of your letter pretty over the top with your claims of corruption and rotten to the core etcetera. I actually receive a huge amount of very positive feedback about ACC's services and case management. I certainly refute your claim about ACC's approach to the integrity of the medical profession whom I meet with regularly.

On the specific issue of fully unfit for work certificates, I have asked ACC for further information.

I would like to reassure you that the letter which you attached to your email does not fully represent ACC policy. The Corporation always has and will continue to accept FUF medical certificates from its clients. The provision of these certificates is a medical issue and is based on the opinion of an appropriate medical provider. The medical certificate guidelines from the Medical Council of New Zealand place certain obligations on doctors writing medical certificates.

ACC is required by legislation to help rehabilitate its clients, and early effective rehabilitation is central to the Corporation's business. ACC aims to provide tailored personal rehabilitation and support so that injured people can return to productive life to the fullest extent practicable as early as possible.

Clients exit the Scheme when they are assessed as having achieved their rehabilitation goals, which I see as positive for both the client and ACC.

It is neither appropriate nor possible for me to intervene in ACC's decision on your specific case given that we are friends. If you disagree with decisions, my only advice is to use the legal processes under the Act to seek review or where you believe ACC is acting unlawfully, to test this before the courts.

I am more than happy to receive correspondence on the broader policy issues around ACC for which I am responsible and to which I am working to make ACC more effective and responsive.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for ACC