**June Update from the Constitutional Review Committee**

The RNZFB’s Constitutional Review Committee last met on 14 June and not 15 June as previously advised. We discussed the feedback we had received and, in some cases, made modifications to our original recommendations.

As the Committee’s work draws to a close, the discussion settles ever-increasingly on technical and drafting refinements. Accordingly, this bulletin reports principally on tweaks to wording.

**Your Feedback**

The Committee remains grateful to those of you who are engaged with the process and welcomes your feedback. Every submission you send to us via any medium is considered by the full Committee, so you can be assured that the effort you make to participate makes a difference. The CRC considers all your feedback and is committed to making refinements based on it.

The current draft of the Constitution is now available for your review. In mid-July we’ll circulate a further draft. Once again, we’ll receive your feedback and may make changes before the final version is submitted to a binding vote.

We also propose holding a telephone conference call on **10 August** where you can still influence our thinking. Participation will be open to anyone who would like to have dialogue with the Committee directly.

We recognise that it can be helpful for members to exchange points of view on a matter like this. To that end, we’re pleased to advise that Blind Citizens New Zealand has agreed to encourage discussion on the Blind Discuss email list it operates. To join, send a blank email to abcnz-blinddiscuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We’ve also established a forum for open discussion on the Blind Foundation’s Telephone Information Service. You can leave messages at option **3, 1, 5, 3**. These will be played for others to hear on menu option **3, 1, 5, 4**.

**Topics Discussed at the last meeting**

**Preamble**

Further to the decision in the May meeting to include a preamble on the first page of the Constitution, wording was agreed on.

**Definitions**

There was discussion around the definition of “blind people” and “client” and the following definitions were agreed:

*“****blind people****” is the term used to encompass all those who are blind, deafblind or have low vision.*

*“****Client****” means a person who is registered to receive services from the Foundation but who may or may not have also chosen to be a Member in terms of this Constitution*.

**General Drafting**

There were many tweaks made to the wording in several rules to make the Constitution both clearer and more consistent.

**Second Interim Report**

The Committee considered the content of the Second Interim Report. This report will accompany the next version of the proposed Constitution and will explain the main changes being suggested to-date. The report and the draft constitution will be sent out for review and comment in July.

**Next Meeting**

The CRC next meets on 17 August.