## February Update from the Constitutional Review Committee

The RNZFB’s Constitutional Review Committee last met on 9 February. Here are the key points of note from that meeting.

### Your Feedback

The Committee remains grateful to everyone who is engaged with the process. 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.

In addition to your vote, you have two opportunities this year to have your say on what we’re proposing, and help influence our thinking before we conclude our work. The first of these rounds of consultation is underway now.

As promised, we have published an interim report for consultation, with a deadline for submissions on this report set for **31 March**. We hope that this single document will give you a clear picture of how our proposed amended Constitution would look. If you wish to review a draft of the new Constitution, that is now also available.

The CRC will consider all your feedback and may make further changes based on it. We’ll circulate our next version of the proposed changes to the Constitution towards the end of July. Once again, we’ll receive your feedback and may make changes before the final version, on which there will be a binding vote.

We welcome the views of anyone who takes the time to study the draft sections and we are committed to making further refinements based on your feedback.

We also propose holding a telephone conference call at a point 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](mailto: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**.

### Proxy Voting

We recognise that the matter of whether proxy votes should be allowed at meetings of members is a contentious issue. To that end, we were pleased to reach out to Geraldine Glanville and Don McKenzie to meet with us regarding their concerns.

The CRC found the dialogue helpful and is continuing to progress its thinking on proxy voting. If you have a view on this subject and indeed any other constitutional matter, we would appreciate you sharing it with us.

### New CRC Member

Having considered several excellent candidates, we’re pleased to welcome Geraldine Glanville to our Committee, to fill the vacancy left by Clive Lansink following his election to the Blind Foundation Board. Geraldine has been a regular submitter throughout the process and possesses considerable knowledge of the current Constitution.

### Next Meeting

The CRC next meets on 7 March and we look forward to considering your feedback.