

Taxation (Annual Rates for 2025–26, Compliance Simplification, and Remedial Measures) Bill

Submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee
New Zealand Parliament
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ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) TE HĀHI TŪHAUWIRI

Quakers welcome and include people of all and no religious backgrounds and beliefs. There are around 400 000 Quakers worldwide; about 1000 people identified as Quakers in the 2018 NZ census. The official name for Quakers around the world is the Religious Society of Friends.

In 1998, Quakers issued a public statement about inequality in New Zealand society. The statement remains relevant in 2025. It reads in part:

“Present policies erode the bonds of trust and respect on which our sense of community is based. They impoverish our spiritual lives through loss of compassion for others. They endanger the well-being of present and future generations.”

For full text see:

<https://quakers.nz/sites/default/files/public/uploads/YM%20Statement%20of%20Social%20Concern%201998.pdf>

Our submission

1. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers/Friends) Te Hahi Tūhauwiri appreciates the opportunity to briefly respond to the Taxation (Annual Rates for 2025–26, Compliance Simplification, and Remedial Measures) Bill.
2. We oppose *repeal of Section 17GB Clause 141*, which has allowed the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to collect information specifically for the purpose of improving the tax system. Removal of that section is a retrograde move.
3. We oppose the introduction of *Clause 143 inserting new section 18HB* which enables the Commissioner to disclose information to another government agency. There is a significant difference in the information the government holds on people drawing a benefit, working for wages, or in care, and that held on people of independent means.
4. This proposal further alters the balance of responsibility and burden of information sharing in favour of the wealthy at the expense of the poor.
5. We encourage the Government to work towards a more equitable society.