



The New Zealand Psychological Society

Te Rōpū Mātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa

2 May 2014

Hon Bill English
Deputy Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings

Cc Todd McClay
Minister for Revenue
Parliament Buildings

Dear Minister

Tax rebates for professional development activities

The New Zealand Psychological Society is the largest professional association for psychologists in New Zealand with over 1400 members and subscribers. We would like to bring to your attention an issue which is impacting on our psychologist members. Many of our members are in salaried positions and on PAYE. Unlike their private practitioner colleagues, they are unable to claim business expenses for costs associated with purchasing professional texts and professional development activities such as attending conferences, workshops and seminars. Psychologists need to undertake professional development activities and maintain their competence in order to meet the requirements for registration with the New Zealand Psychologist's Board. They are willing to do so because they recognise that keeping up to date is essential in providing a quality service to clients.

Our members have informed us that their public sector employers are increasingly unwilling to fund the professional development of their employees and that they are having to meet these costs themselves. We would like to see the ability of public servants to claim tax rebates for professional development expenses reinstated.

This would recognise that professional development contributes to the public good and would encourage all professionals (not just psychologists) to maintain their professional competence.

We seek your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Coleman'.

Peter Coleman
President
New Zealand Psychological Society