

# Office of Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

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## **COVID-19 Public Health Response (Validation of Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Bill**

20 May 2021

Presented to the House of Representatives under Standing Order 272.

J.17

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Validation of Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Bill (the Bill) retrospectively validates the imposition and collection of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) charges from Australian temporary entry class visa holders under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 and provides for their lawful collection going forward.

These changes ensure that it is clear that previous charges are and have always been valid and clarifies that MIQ charges should apply based on the visa or border exception the person travels to New Zealand on, rather than the visa they are granted on arrival (if that is different).

Cabinet's policy intent with regard to charging MIQ fees for Australians is clear. Australians who were ordinarily resident in New Zealand have the same liability for MIQ fees as New Zealanders. All other Australians were expected to be liable for fees under provisions in the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations) relating to temporary entry class visa holders, including critical workers and critical health workers.

The Bill is purely technical and does not change the policy position on who should be liable to pay MIQ charges or the level of charges that they are liable to pay.