

2 April 2025

Submitted via: [www.parliament.nz](http://www.parliament.nz)

Committee Secretariat  
Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee  
Wellington

**Re: Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill**

The sometimes-significant costs associated with replacing, waiting for a replacement, or going without, essential goods can be ‘the straw that broke the camel’s back’ for whānau trying to balance a budget. A right to repair can lower the risk of financial hardship arising where repairs become available as a more cost-effective and timelier alternative to replacing these goods.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill. This is a letter in support for the submission made by Consumer NZ with some brief comments to demonstrate how a Right to Repair may help whānau working with financial mentors.

Some whānau working with financial mentors and looking to find a sustainable way forward with their out-of-control finances start by setting a goal. This will at times be to save towards a reliable item. An example might be to get a washing machine that then offsets time and money put into visiting a laundromat. If a single parent is looking to increase hours at work, this reliable washing machine may make it possible.

Financial mentor practice is grounded in helping whānau to understand and take up options to reach goals that relate to their financial situation. More certainty about the risks associated with an option that involves selecting an item would be helpful to whānau.

The status quo can see waste or the risk of potential waste around a hard saved for item that is demotivating. A right to repair can empower and motivate whānau who are on a journey to sustainable finances. If looking to purchase a washing machine, they can better research what would be a fit for purpose item in their circumstances and know roughly what further savings may then be necessary to be prepared for repairs. FinCap supports a Right to Repair.

**About FinCap**

FinCap (the National Building Financial Capability Charitable Trust) is a registered charity and the umbrella organisation supporting the 177 local, free financial mentoring services across Aotearoa. These services supported almost 62,000 whānau facing financial hardship in 2024. We lead the sector in the training and development of financial mentors, the collection and analysis of client data and encourage collaboration between services. We advocate on issues affecting whānau to influence system-level change to reduce the causes of financial hardship.

Please contact Jake Lilley, senior policy advisor at FinCap on 027 278 2672 or at [jake@fincap.org.nz](mailto:jake@fincap.org.nz) to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Ngā mihi



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