



# The Circular

"Women Influencing Policy"

No. 512

May/Haratua 2008

## Presidential Comment

In this issue Page	
From the Board	2
Standing Committee News	4-5
National Members	6
Branch Initiatives	3
International	7-8-
Nationally Organised Societies	6
Action Items	17-18

### Board of Management

#### *National President*

Christine Low

#### *National Vice-Presidents*

Elizabeth Bang

Margaret Cook

#### *National Treasurer*

Correen Rodger

#### *Members*

Barbara Arnold, Christina Reymer,  
Patricia Woodley

#### *Executive Officer*

Lynda Sutherland

#### *International Secretary*

Margaret Cook

#### *Circular Editors*

Elizabeth Bang/Barbara Arnold

**National Council of Women of  
New Zealand  
10 Park Street  
P O Box 12 117, Wellington**

**Ph 04 473 7623  
Fax 04 499 5554**

### FEMALE TRAFFICKING

I have just returned from two International Council of Women meetings held in Jakarta. The first was the Asia Pacific Regional Council (APRC II) which held its second ever meeting and formalised a constitution. Then followed the ICW Executive Meeting. New Zealand was successful in obtaining funding through NZAID for five women from Pacific national councils to attend and participate in both meetings. Representatives from Samoa, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu attended. Our thanks go to Jane Prichard who guided the application through its process and made the arrangements to ensure the women could attend.

The theme of the Executive Meeting was *The Challenge of Achieving Gender Equality*. The APRC II had a sub theme of *Taking Action on Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Girls*. At first glance there may seem to be little that New Zealand could gain from such discussions however as we know from CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) New Zealand cannot rest on its laurels or pretend the problems do not exist. We need to keep the conversations going and continually strive to find solutions.

New Zealand was well represented with Jane Prichard as one of the ICW Vice Presidents, Christine Knock the Co-Ordinator of Social Issues, Jean Corbin-Thomas Advisor on Human Rights, Beryl Anderson, newly appointed as the Advisor on Implementation of Conventions and myself as President of NZ's National Council. Through the representatives from the Pacific and New Zealand a strong voice from the Pacific was heard at the global level. Ideas were shared and we all came away with an increased understanding of one another's issues.

Trafficking of women is a hot topic and while New Zealand may consider itself far removed from this particularly awful form of human treatment (dare we call it slavery?) it became clear that we are not. New Zealand cannot continue to be in denial over this world-wide problem.

While many associate trafficking with the commercial sex industry, it has a much wider

reach than that. The sourcing of women from overseas as 'wives' is a form of trafficking and we are all well aware that this does occur in New Zealand. Trafficking also covers women brought to any country where it is made difficult and sometimes impossible for them to contact family back in their home country; where their passports are withheld; where the opportunity to apply to legally stay in the new country is withheld; and where withholding the necessities of life is used as a threat to keep them compliant. Unfortunately many of these examples are all too real for some women in New Zealand. So why then, when everywhere else in the world calls it trafficking, does New Zealand not recognise it as such?

NCWNZ has initiated international policy, via ICW, on trafficking and we now need to get that information down to the local level. Freedom from Violence, one of NCWNZ targeted foci recognises that the removal of a right is a form of violence. Let us all become more aware and reach out to women who may be suffering from this form of violence. Let us raise awareness of human trafficking and give a voice to those unable to do so.

**Christine Low  
National President**



## From The Board

### Fair Trade

NCWNZ has joined the Fair Trade organisation as part of our commitment to Sustainable Development. The Fair Trade Fortnight is 3-18 May. More information is available further on in *The Circular* under General Interest or check out [www.fairtrade.org.nz](http://www.fairtrade.org.nz)

### Rose Bowl Competition

The Rose Bowl competition should be well underway with the first survey results coming through to National Office. Many ideas for reducing your carbon footprint being discussed and put into action. Since the competition was announced there have been several websites and other sources mentioned in *The Circular* to help you with ideas that your Branch might try. The Ministry for the Environment has numerous suggestions on its website as one example. When you are writing up after your second survey, the Board will be interested to read about how applicable you found the ideas and how easy they were to implement.

## From National Office

### The Conference theme is **NCWNZ: Towards a Sustainable Future.**

To work with the transport arrangements, the Conference will be starting at 3.30pm on Thursday 02 October and finishing at 12.30pm on Sunday 05 October. Details of the transport arrangements will be published in future issues of *The Circular*. However for ease of planning, flight bookings should be made to ensure arrival in Wellington before 11am on the Thursday and departures from Wellington after 4.30pm on Sunday. These have been changed to fit around public transport times to and from Masterton.

Note that there will be a crèche available for Thursday afternoon and Friday, but not over Saturday and Sunday.

Accommodation details were printed in the March Circular.

## Letters to the Editor

### New Zealand Needs Family Friendly Parliament

Thank you very much for your recent press release highlighting the inequities of having a parliament that is so unfriendly to any member wanting to spend a reasonable amount of time with their families.

As a parent myself, and one thinking of some stage at getting more active in politics in some form or another, this is a huge barrier to my participation and I'm sure it would be likewise to others - male and female. It's high time New Zealand had some sort of debate about how the structure of parliament set up in the 19th Century serves us now in the 21st.

Kate Whitwell

Parent of two and Vice President - Wellington Playcentre Association

### New Horizons for Women Trust

I am overwhelmed by the support shown by our nominating organisations in offering Awards, in fundraising on behalf of then Trust and supporting our activities in terms of advertising and attending our functions. Thank you for being there for the Trust; I have enjoyed the opportunity to interact with you.

The new board will be under the leadership of Lyn Dowsett who was nominated by The New Zealand Association of Women in Science, Lyn can be contacted using the e-mail [chair@newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz](mailto:chair@newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz) address or through PO Box 12 498 WELLINGTON 6144.

Her team is as follows Magila Annandale (YWCA), Sherrill Dackers -(Rural Women NZ), Sharon Evans(Life members of the former SROW), Jenn Jones (Women' s Studies Association), Marg Lees (Zonta International), Pat Sivertsen (NZ Fedn BPW), Tangi Tipene -( NZ Council of Trade Unions), Mary Trounson (NZ Fedn of Graduate Women)

### Awards

May I remind you that the closing date for all our awards is 31 May 2008 - full details and application forms are available from our website <http://www.newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz>

## People

### Mourned

**Miriam Murray**, QSM, JP, Dunedin

**Isabel Margaret Buist** QSM, Hutt Valley

### NCWNZ National Conference 2008

### NCWNZ: Towards a Sustainable Future

**2-5 October 2008**

**Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Solway Park  
Masterton**

# Connections

	Jean Fuller and Joy		
3/04/2008	McNicholl Pauline	Equal Pay meeting	Wellington
20/04/2008	Edwar Pauline	Baha'i Festival: Day of Ridvan	Wellington
22/04/2008	Edwards Elizabeth	NZ Fed Ethnic Councils	Wellington
25/04/2008	Bang Eileen	BPW Conference opening	Hamilton
1/05/2008	Imlach	Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum Presentation Ceremony	Wellington

# Branch Initiatives

## Auckland

The "Anti-Smacking" Bill is once more under attack. There is a strong likelihood of there being a referendum vote on this bill attached to the elections. NCWNZ policy clearly supports this bill and we need to be prepared to advocate for it. The reports of violence towards women and children continue to be a dominant feature of the daily news. (Branch President's comments)

## Manukau

The Branch reported on the International Women's Day breakfast where many of the 77 women attending wore their national dress. The Saturday start one hour later made it easier for many women to attend who would otherwise have to tend to getting children ready for school or working.

## Matamata

Branch members were informed at their February meeting that Waikato was officially a drought area for the first time in 100 years of meteorological recording; this designation enabled all support services to be mobilised and the Rural Support Trust to operate.

## Nelson

At the AGM Inspector Brian McGurk, who spoke at the NCWNZ national meeting in Nelson, was re-elected as Chair of the Safer Community Council. Funding from the Crime Prevention Unit is again available and the Council raised as their three most important issues crime prevention through environmental design, racism and alcohol related issues.

## Taranaki

Kathy Glass, Elder Protection Service Co-ordinator for the Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Service, spoke to the Branch at their March meeting. She informed members that the organisation assisted older people and carers where there is a risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The organisation also has a major role in the prevention of abuse through providing information to the elderly on how to keep themselves safe.

## Tauranga

Guest Speaker Dr Phil Shoemack, Medical Officer of Health for the Toi Te Ora – Public Health, greater Bay of Plenty region, on the new Public Health Bill. The main points covered:

The PHB includes language and health issues reflective of NZ in the 21st century.

Some public health issues do not change eg. availability of fresh drinking water. However, since Sept 11 new legislation to cover public health issues such as SARS, flu pandemics and civil defence situations (i.e. a volcanic eruption) need to be included. Health impact assessments were to be encouraged. If, for example a motorway was proposed the holistic well-being of people (physical, mental, spiritual, environmental, and family health) needed assessing as to whether such a project was for the greater good of the people.

Non-Communicable Diseases – new to the Bill. For example the Government can issue non-binding limits and guidelines for food products but not prevent their sale. People have a right to protection but need to make their own consumption decisions.

## Whangarei

At the March meeting Linda Wigley, the Director of the Whangarei Museum and Kiwi House, spoke about plans for their new programme called 'Kiwi North' which includes a new nocturnal Kiwi House, a walk through aviary, a cafe and modernisation of the displays of taonga in the Museum. Fund raising towards the 'Kiwi North' programmes is by way of a 'Kiwi Rock' where people are asked to buy a rock that will be incorporated into a new dry stone wall. These walls have been a feature of the area where the Museum is located since early settlement.

## Whakatane

The Branch is planning a debate on the topic; "That nationally there should be no disparity in sponsorship and funding between men's and women's sport". This event will be open to the public.

# Standing Committee News

## Conveners

**Consumer Affairs** - Jan Brown

**Economics** - Heather Smith

**Education** - Frances Townsend

**Employment** - Elizabeth (Liz) Cruickshank

**Environment** - Sara Dickon

**Family Affairs** - Belinda Greenwood

**Health** -

**Justice and Law Reform** - Sandra Marshall

**Public Issues** - Joan Macdonald

**Social Issues** - Christine Rattray

## Education

In the most recent copy of the Education Review April 4 2008, p.16, Stuart Middleton comments on two separate documents which show the need for new approaches in education. The first document is 'A State of the Nation Report from the Salvation Army'. The section on 'Our Children' comments on the numbers of children who are missing out on the benefits that NZ children appear to have when compared to children in other countries and in earlier times. These young people appear in the statistics of the following:

- growing numbers of children referred to CYFS and in CYFS care
- climbing teenage pregnancy and abortion rates
- rising youth offending
- improving child mortality but increasing accident rates
- inequalities in the provision of early childhood education
- continuing educational inequality.

The second document 'Schools Plus' from the Ministry of Education complements the first as it sets out what should be our major concerns; namely;

- too many children leaving school with low or no qualifications
- low participation rates for 15 – 19 yr olds compared to other OECD countries
- school leavers with low literacy and numeracy skills
- about 20,000 15-19 yr olds considered to be NEETs (i.e. not in education, employment or training).
- wide spread of achievement across schools
- wide spread of achievement across groups of students

The Minister of Education argues that changing the situation requires not just Government but the whole of society to come on board, accept that the situation is not acceptable and take the action which is needed to change things.

How is this to be achieved? We must think flexibly. There is no longer one way. The future for schooling and for education will be a future characterized by a multiplicity of ways. Different approaches and pathways will be created for groups of young people with different needs, different dispositions and different aspirations.

The Government wants young people to engage, to want to be at school learning and believes that this will lessen the social problems that come from leaving school early – the teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, long term unemployment, poverty and crime.

For this to come about New Zealand communities and society as a whole must want to change, and we must accept ways to do things differently. If we do the same things in the same old ways nothing will change. As NCWNZ members we must encourage and support sound initiatives to do things differently.

## Environment

Weedbusters is an umbrella campaign for awareness of weeds.. Most regions now have two Weedbusters co-ordinators, one from the Department of Conservation and one from the regional council or unitary authority; they work together carrying out their Weedbusters role as part of their main employment. Their task is to :

- provide an information hub from national to local levels
- support new and existing groups and encourage new initiatives
- advocate for the Weedbusters programme within their own organisations
- form partnerships and work together with staff in other organisations to address weed issues.

Following on from the highly successful Northland/Auckland and Wellington "Plant Me Instead" books, there are now similar books for Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast, Waikato, Canterbury/Otago, and Southland regions. Similar books are being planned for Bay of Plenty and East Coast/Hawkes Bay.

Contact [www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz) for more information.

## Parliamentary Watch

## Pre-Election Legislation

The Standing Committees have produced numerous submissions on topics related to NCWNZ's targeted foci and our core business. Sometimes these seem to languish in a queue, and other times the timeframe is so short there is barely time to consult and write a submission. PWC has considered the impact of an election year on the progress of legislation through the House.

The last possible date for the election is 15 November 2008. This constrains the amount of time that Parliament will have to consider legislation. Any Bills that are not passed in the current session automatically lapse unless the next Parliament reinstates them.

There are about 70 Government or Members' Bills at various stages (introduced, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> reading). It is unlikely that they will all make it through to the final stage in this Parliament. There are a number of strategies that might be used in this pre-election phase:

- avoiding Bills that are likely to cause controversy
- bringing forward Private Members' Bills
- continuing with the current programme – a "business as usual" approach.

The Prime Minister's Statement to Parliament on 12 February (see <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/statement+to+parliament+2008>) sets out a programme which she will be trying to follow, and gives some guidance on the issues for which we need to be prepared. The Prime Minister distinguished between Bills for which she promises "passage" and those that she intends to "progress".

Expected to pass are:

- Biofuel Bill – making use of biofuels to lessen the use of fossil fuels. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 16/10/07, submissions closed.

- Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Criminal Procedure Bill. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was 9/05/06, committal 22/03/07.
- Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Land Transport Management Amendment Bill – to allow regional fuel taxes to be developed. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 6/11/07, submissions closed.
- Public Transport Management Bill – to give the Regional Councils power to get better integrated passenger services. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 16/10/07, submissions closed.
- Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 14/06/06, submissions closed.

Intended to "progress" are:

- Affordable Housing: Enabling Territorial Authorities Bill – enables local bodies to require affordable housing in new developments. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Financial Advisers Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 19/02/08, submissions close 4/04/08.
- Financial Service Providers (Registration and Dispute Resolution) Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Immigration Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 16/08/07, submissions closed.
- Injury Prevention Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Maori Trustee and Maori Development Bill – economic development of Maori interests. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 4/03/08, submissions close 7/05/08.

- Policing Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 19/02/08, submissions closed.
- Public Health Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Real Estate Agents Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.
- Waka Umanga (Maori Corporations) Bill – for the management of Maori assets. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 11/12/07, submissions closed.

Other issues that the Prime Minister or Cabinet Ministers have given a strong indication that there will be action include:

- Corrections Amendment Bill (2) - regulating communications for prisoners. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 21/02/08, submissions close 8/04/08.
- Summary Offences (Tagging and Graffiti Vandalism) Amendment Bill. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was 21/02/08, submissions closed.
- Commerce Amendment Bill. Introduced 13/03/08.
- An attempt to simplify the design and building processes for starter houses.
- The concept of "Urban Development Authorities".
- Free Trade with China.
- Schooling until the age of 18.

This summary gives us some guidance on where we need to put our resources, and what topics we should be familiarising ourselves with so that we can respond in what might be very short timeframes (eg the tagging legislation).

## Family Affairs

May 15th is Families Day, a day to celebrate the family. The Families Commission has invited all New Zealand families to join all families around the world to celebrate together and along with other organisations within New Zealand have organised family activities to help focus on the positive parts of being part of a family. What has your community organised? Anything? What has your workplace done to help with making your workplace family friendly?

Parenting is a role you have for life once your first child is born and should be celebrated. Children are our future and look to us to set an example, to teach what is right and wrong, to love, to encourage, to nurture, to be kept safe and to be respected and listened to. Sadly many children do not have this love in their lives and some parents need help to teach parenting skills to be able to parent their child. Many succeed in making the transition and should be deservedly proud of turning their lives around in order to raise their children successfully. These parents, more than any other parent, should be celebrating the day and encouraged to participate in the days events. Many Grandparents, hav-

ing already raised one family, are raising grandchildren /Whanau/ Kin and struggling with day to day issues to do this. They have put their retirements on hold, given up plans they once had, gone back to work, sold their homes and have sacrificed their immediate future to parent a second time through no fault of their own. They have put their grandchildren before their own wishes and desires and should be supported in making this sacrifice for the future of their grandchildren/Whanau/kin.

To truly celebrate Families Day an announcement from the Government giving the starting date to grant Grandparents/Whanau/ Kin who are raising Grandchildren/Whanau/kin the equivalent of the Foster Parent allowance would truly be proof that the government means to honour the promise they made three years ago and honour the celebration of being part of a family in New Zealand.

As the Families Commission says 'Being a parent takes being able to multi task to a whole new level. It's a job for life and raising children is probably the most important thing you'll ever do'. So on May 15th celebrate your family.

# Nationally Organised Societies



## THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The national office of The New Zealand Federation of Women's Institutes has moved from their Thorndon office where they had been for some fifty years to Level 12 of 156 Willis Street in the centre of the city.

The new office is above the Central Stratford Hotel and Apartments and while much smaller than the previous accommodation, it is newly built and is working well for the national Federation.

New contact details are

Postal address: P O Box 11-066, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

Physical address: Level 12/1, 156 Willis Street, Wellington

Telephone: (04) 801 5553; Fax (04) 801 5554



Rural  
Women  
NEW ZEALAND

## Seasonal Workers Need Paid Parental Leave Too

Rural Women New Zealand says the Government's ongoing review of the Paid Parental Leave scheme should focus on removing barriers to eligibility for an important part of the rural workforce.

"Seasonal workers do not meet the current eligibility criteria, which requires six months' continuous service with the same employer," says RWNZ National President, Margaret Chapman.

"Rural Women New Zealand is calling for Paid Parental Leave to be extended to include seasonal workers."

There are already difficulties finding enough workers for the horticulture and viticulture sectors and excluding seasonal workers from accessing Paid Parental Leave exacerbates this situation.

The report 'Parental Leave in New Zealand 2005/06' reveals 'well educated, higher earning women in the core labour market are the group most likely to be eligible for Paid Parental Leave.'

"Any eligibility barriers related to the socio-economic grouping or the educational status of the mother should be removed," says Ms Chapman. "Nor should there be any differentiation in eligibility criteria between those who work full time or part-time, on contract, who are self-employed or in seasonal work."

Rural Women New Zealand is also calling for an extension of Paid Parental Leave to achieve Ministry of Health guidelines that would enable six months' continuous breastfeeding, up from the current fourteen weeks.

"We welcome the Government's review of the Paid Parental Leave scheme and believe our recommendations will remove some of the anomalies that add to the difficulties for rural women in qualifying for Paid Parental Leave and in participating in the workforce."

## National Conference – Blenheim 16–19 May

National Conference promises to be a very exciting event with the theme "Celebrating Diversity". The conference Keynote Speaker is Gregory Fortuin, Honorary South African Consul to NZ appointed by Nelson Mandela in 1998, and Race Relations Conciliator 2001-02.

National Conference Celebrity Debate (Open to the Public\*) on Sunday May 17 promises to be a very lively celebrity debate on the topic "Rural Women do it Better". On the affirmative team will be Kim Hill (broadcaster), Tom Lambie (past national president FF), Fiona Gower (RWNZ national speech competition winner 2007). On the negative team will be Jim Hopkins (TV presenter), Kerry Maw (RWNZ National Councillor Region 2, Canterbury), and Doug Avery (Marlborough farmer). The chairman will be Andrew Finch Blenheim lawyer and past winner Young Farmer of the Year.

## Family Planning Association

The Family Planning Association has launched a new brand and logo – and an almost new name.

From the end of 2007 the organisation has been known as Family Planning and uses the strap line – positive sexual health.

Family Planning Chief Executive Jackie Edmond says the name change reflects the way the organisation has been publicly known for a long time – but it is the addition of the "positive sexual health" strap line that is the most significant change and best articulates what the organisation does.

"Positive sexual health reflects our commitment to ensuring all New Zealanders enjoy good sexual health with access to the information and clinical services they require – regardless of the life-stage or age they're at," Ms Edmond says.

"We believe the new brand and logo make a bold statement, will increase our recognition in the community and ensure people know who we are and what we do. The name reflects our history and heritage and the inclusion of the positive sexual health strap line reaffirms our commitment to the sexual and reproductive health of all New Zealanders," Ms Penno says.

"Positive sexual health also reflects our mission statement - Family Planning works to promote a positive view of sexuality and to enable people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and well-being."

# International

## OECD Development Centre – Information Sharing Platform

On International Women's Day, 7 March 2008, the OECD Development Centre launched, the organisation's first "wiki": <http://www.wikigender.org>

For the OECD Development Centre, this initiative provides a unique opportunity to

reach out to new communities, to engage in a bottom-up user dialogue and to test the idea of a "wiki" platform, in line with the 2007 Istanbul Declaration and the OECD's proposed Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies".

Wikigender is expected to have two important effects. First, it will improve the availability of information on gender issues globally. Second, it will encourage local allies such as labour unions, business associations and teachers to help build pressure for reform and contribute to dispelling resistance to change.

Wikigender.org is your online resource for information on gender equality. This innovative website aims to gather experts and the general public with one clear objective: sharing knowledge on issues related to gender equality for a better understanding of the situation of women around the world.

Wikigender is not a final product, but a continuous process to improve the knowledge on gender equality. All previous versions of an article and even deletions are recorded, so anything you do here remains an accessible part of Wikigender, available for future reference. But don't be anxious! When editing, keep following guidelines in mind and you will soon find yourself making effective contributions to the project.

The primary objective of Wikigender is to share knowledge on gender equality and to distil this knowledge into high-quality articles.



## The Millennium Development Goals :

- These synthesise, in a single package, many of the most important commitments made separately at the international conferences and summits of the 1990s; they:



- recognise explicitly the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development;
- acknowledge that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and peace and security;
- are based on time-bound and measurable targets accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress;

### quick facts

- Under-five mortality rates dropped from 185 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 166 per 1,000 in 2006.

Goal 4 : Aim to reduce ,by two thirds, the mortality rate among children under five.

## Success Stories

Viet Nam's Ministry of Health has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus, with support from WHO and UNICEF. Maternal and neonatal tetanus is a disease that kills tens of thousands of newborns each year, most of them in developing countries. The disease is often called the "silent killer" because many newborns affected by it die at home in very remote and poor communities where both the births and the deaths go unreported. Viet Nam's Ministry of Health has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus, with support from WHO and UNICEF. A survey conducted by UNICEF, WHO and the Government of Viet Nam in three of Viet Nam's disadvantaged districts - Bao Yen and Bao Thang in Lao Cai Province, and Phuoc Long in Binh Phuoc Province - showed less than one neonatal tetanus death per 1000 live births in 2005. In the 1980s, some 20,000 Vietnamese babies died annually of tetanus before the age of one month. Since 1991, pregnant women have been vaccinated throughout Viet Nam through its Expanded Programme on Immunization, resulting in a high vaccination coverage rate. Viet Nam is the ninth country in the world, and the first East Asian country, within a priority group of 58 countries that has eliminated these diseases.

In South Asia, the Reaching Every District strategy continues to play a central role in improving children's survival rates through increased nationwide use of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccines. Through community outreach, supervision, training, and data collection and monitoring, massive immunization campaigns have reached vast numbers of children.

UNICEF has helped Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Pakistan train female volunteers to administer polio vaccines and promote immunization against maternal and child tetanus. In Afghanistan, for example, more than one million children under age five were vaccinated against measles, and more than 700,000 women of childbearing age received tetanus vaccines during 2006 under a comprehensive immunization campaign led by the local Ministry of Health. The same year, Bangladesh, with support from UNICEF and WHO, conducted the world's largest ever measles eradication campaign in just 20 days, vaccinating 33.5 million children between the ages of nine months and 10 years. Endemic countries such as Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan have reduced the spread and geographical radius of polio through coordinated campaigns.

### United Nations Observance

40 Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Basic Human Right to Family Planning

13 May 2008

Sponsored by United Nations Population Fund

## ICW at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Commission of the Status of Women, New York

### Priority Theme: Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

A strong delegation of ICW representatives attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission held 25 February-7 March 2008 at UN Headquarters. From the Board Anamah Tan, International President, Cosima Schenk, 1st Vice-President, Jane Prichard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President and Hean-Bee Wee, Acting Assistant Treasurer and President NCW Australia were present. Members of national councils from every region also attended.

Before the session opened Anamah, Jane and Hean-Bee attended the Five-O Project annual meeting with representatives from the other four members: BPWI, IFUW,

Soroptimist International and Zonta International. Five-O benefits women through development projects and advocacy on critical issues. ICW Board members also attended the CONGO Board meeting held mid-session. ICW is a member of the CONGO Board, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Anamah Tan made an oral statement in the Plenary Session on behalf of the ICW focusing on greater levels of financing from governments for women's development, the need to be more proactive under Resolution 1325 for women in decision-making on peace-making and peace-building, the better protection of women and children in situations of armed conflict and action to overcome trafficking of women and girls.

The full statement and other reports from CSW can be viewed at [www.icw-cif.org](http://www.icw-cif.org)

The ICW ran two workshops and co-sponsored two others. ICW workshops were titled "Financing for Gender Equality and the empowerment of women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution in post-conflict peace-building" and "Have your say on Financing for Gender Equality", an interactive workshop which brought statements for a platform of advocacy to governments.

Almost 2000 registered for CSW 08 due to the high level of interest in the priority theme. Outcomes from the session will be a focus for discussion in Jakarta at APRC II and the ICW Executive Committee Meeting as they lie at the heart of the ICW Triennial theme for 2006-2009 "The Challenge of Achieving Gender Equality".

The Agreed Conclusions were unable to be finalised by the end of the session due to the large number of amendments to the draft document rather than disagreement between governments. Discussions were expected to be completed by 14 March.

## Targeted Focus

### Water for People

Water for People is the first compelling issue of the 2008 volume of Development- a volume devoted entirely to the environment and development. Many communities are taking up the responsibility of their own water management, practicing or revitalizing new modes of water governance and building alternative knowledge of water. Water for People rethinks water and water scarcity, illustrating alternative management methods. It hopes to enrich the growing field of water-people relationships by focusing on how communities balance their water needs in ways that take into consideration both the environment and the people.' - Laura Fano - Society for International Development

Human Rights Network Aotearoa New Zealand

## General Interest



### Fair Trade

NCWNZ has joined the Fair Trade organisation as part of our commitment to Sustainable Development.

Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalised producers and workers - especially in the South. Fair Trade organisations (backed by consumers) are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade."

By changing to fair trade today or getting involved in events, you can change the lives of farmers and producers across the developing world. Through such simple actions you can demonstrate support for producers and can trigger a positive change in peoples' lives in developing countries so why not Taste It, Try It, Support It ... Change It, Choose It... this Fair Trade Fortnight.

Fair Trade is about giving disadvantaged people power: by paying producers and workers fair prices for their work, by helping them gain the skills and knowledge they need to develop their businesses and to operate in the global economy, and by challenging unfair trading practices. It is about providing fair go, not charity. Together we can create more awareness of international consumer power and offer New Zealanders an opportunity to make real change through supporting fair trade activities and buying fairly traded products.

## What is the FAIRTRADE Label?

The Fairtrade Certification Label is an independent consumer certification label which appears on products as an independent guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal. As a result of Fairtrade, these producers receive a Fairtrade Minimum Price that covers the cost of sustainable production as well as an extra Fairtrade Premium that is invested in social or economic development projects.

Look for the Fairtrade label on products such as coffee, tea and chocolate (with more to come) to ensure that the benefits really do go back to producers.

What does the Fairtrade Label and system guarantee?

- A better deal for producers in developing countries and also a guarantee to consumers that the full benefits of Fairtrade are being received by producers ; these are:
- A fair and stable price for their produce
- Security of long term contracts
- Investment in local community development
- Improved working conditions Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy

## Making Communication Easier for Those with Hearing Impairment.

On 1 March 2008 New Zealand Relay introduced an email pre-call to enhance its Speech to Speech service. This will give users of NZ Relay the opportunity to email New Zealand Relay sending information to the Relay Assistant on:

- - the name of the person they wish to call
- - the phone number
- - any specific instructions

The pre-call email is [sts@nzrelay.co.nz](mailto:sts@nzrelay.co.nz) . The service is available Monday - Friday 7.30am - 9.00pm and Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

You can contact the NZ Relay helpdesk at any time if you have any queries or would like training on how to access and effectively use Speech to Speech.

For more information: Phone: 0800 4 715 715 (Voice) Fax: 0800 4 329 697 Help Desk email: [Helpdesk@NZRelay.co.nz](mailto:Helpdesk@NZRelay.co.nz) Information email: [info@NZRelay.co.nz](mailto:info@NZRelay.co.nz) Website: [www.nzrelay.co.nz](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz)

## Priorities for Breast Cancer

The Rotorua Breast Cancer Conference put together a set of recommendations designed to reduce the incidence of breast cancer; to improve the detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer; and to reduce mortality from the disease.

The preliminary recommendations include:

1. That a national breast cancer database be prioritised and implemented as a critical tool for the prevention, management and control of breast cancer.
2. That there be better access to anti-cancer drugs for all those diagnosed with breast cancer and that there be greater consumer participation and consultation in the drug funding process.
3. That all breast cancer patients have timely access to world best practice treatment and ongoing care, and that delays and waiting lists for treatment such as radiotherapy and reconstruction be addressed as a matter of priority.
4. That inequities in the access to care, and participation in diagnostic and treatment services be addressed and improved among Maori and Pacifica women.

5. That environmental and lifestyle influences on the development of breast cancer be addressed and that information on these issues and what can be done to avoid exposures to carcinogenic substances be made available to New Zealanders through schools and the education system, public health nurses, maternity cares, Plunket and other health care providers.

6. That women receive greater and better information about all aspects of care and treatment, including the national breast screening programme, surgical and drug options.

7. That MRI imaging be funded and made available for high risk women.

For more information on the conference or a copy of the proceedings contact the Breast Cancer Network: [www.breastcancer.org.nz](http://www.breastcancer.org.nz)

Women's Health Update

## Human Rights Commission 2007 annual report - languages

The chapter on languages in the Human Rights Commission's annual report was released on 21 February 2008 at Te Papa, Wellington by the Race Relations Commissioner Joris De Bres, to mark the UN International Year of Languages.

New Zealand Sign Language is recognised in the New Zealand Curriculum as one of the three official languages that may be studied as a first or additional language.

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) in the New Zealand Curriculum was launched in March 2007. This comprises guidelines for teachers to plan and implement relevant programmes. The NZSL Curriculum:

- - provides the basis for NZSL programmes in early childhood settings and in primary and secondary schools
- - gives students the opportunity to learn NZSL from the earliest practicable age
- - increases the number of students learning an additional language
- - extends the opportunity to others to learn about NZSL and Deaf culture.

The inaugural NZSL Week was held in May 2007, with the aim of raising awareness now that NZSL is an official language. The Deaf Association celebrated the week by providing NZSL posters that were distributed to 90% of New Zealand schools, giving hearing children the opportunity to learn some basic signs. NZSL teachers around the country also offered free 45 minute Taste of Sign Language classes. A new website was launched at [www.nzsign.co.nz](http://www.nzsign.co.nz) to provide information about the history of sign language and New Zealand Deaf culture.

Office for Disability Issues, Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

# General Interest



## **Achieving potential through volunteering** Volunteering NZ and

the Volunteer Centres network have chosen "Achieve your potential through volunteering" as the theme for Volunteer Awareness Week which will be held Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008. The theme will be reflected in publicity material such as posters, flyers and balloons (with possibly some variation on the words). All organisations who are planning events for the week are invited to incorporate the theme into their activities and promotional material.

Volunteering NZ is again preparing posters A3 and A4 sizes, flyers, stickers and balloons. This is happening with funding and organisational support from the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector. All the organisations who have received supplies of these last year or for International Volunteer Day will be sent some this year. If you have received this VNZ Update and have not received these materials before and would like some, please contact Volunteering NZ by email ([office@volunteeringnz.org.nz](mailto:office@volunteeringnz.org.nz)), providing a mailing name and address. If doing so, please let us have an indication of the quantities you would like of each item listed above.

### **Activities available through VNZ website**

Part of Volunteering NZ's role is to put together a list of Awareness Week events which individual organisations are planning around New Zealand. This list will be used for briefing the news media, local Mayors and MPs, as well as being available for general public information through the VNZ website. Organisations will be able to list directly the events they have planned for the week directly onto the website. Or contact [office@volunteeringnz.org.nz](mailto:office@volunteeringnz.org.nz) and they will put it on to the webpage for you.

### **International Women's Day Disarmament Seminar**

From 5-6 March 2008, over 120 women from more than 40 countries gathered in Geneva to discuss 'Women, War, Weapons and Conflict Prevention. They discussed the next phase of activity in putting resolution 1325 to work so that it does more than add a few sentences to speeches, more than add a few women to UN departments and peacekeeping operations.

This event was the 25th such seminar. Since 1984, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has worked with other NGOs to organise a seminar linking 8 March - International Women's Day - with disarmament, peace and security issues. Each year, a report and statement from the NGO conference has been read into the record of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the only official oral contribution from NGOs to this body. The 2008 statement is below. Conference papers will also be posted here: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2008IWD/index.html>

They looked at current global military expenditure - 1.2 trillion US dollars - and concluded BASTA! ENOUGH! - we cannot afford every day to be pay day for military corporations like Haliburton, Lockheed Martin, BAE, Denel or Yakolev. We cannot afford the money used to occupy Iraq. Two weeks spending in Iraq is the equivalent of what the OECD countries allocated to gender empowerment projects for the last 5 years on 1996 figures. We can have one combat ship for the same cost of sending 6.8 million children to school in Afghanistan for 9 years. One year of global military spending could buy 600 years of the UN's regular budget. Well, BASTA! ENOUGH!

26,000 nuclear weapons, 'conventional' bombs, guns, cluster bombs and landmines will not deter or remove the threat of a

Tsunami, a hurricane, a flood, a virus, climate change or a water shortage, the real security threats of our times. And until governments are prepared to face these cold hard facts, they are going to face some serious campaigning about this theft, this organised crime, this corporate welfare, from women. While outdated military security doctrines and budgets of the Cold War prevail, the vision of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security cannot be fulfilled.

It was decided to launch a new effort -- within existing networks and organisations -- to reduce military spending and divert these funds to social, economic and gender justice, to averting climate change and environmental degradation. Participants will be reaching out to the women's movement, the peace movement, the environmental movement, the development movement and others. The issue of resources unites us, as efforts for our goals remain scarce while the military have no-bid contracts, cost plus, and often immune from audit. And we women, on International Women's Day say BASTA! ENOUGH!  
BPW New Zealand

### **Anew New Zealand: "What Matters Most to New Zealanders"**

The project aims at a collaborative partnership to develop a public shared vision for New Zealand and measure progress toward creating this vision. It emerged out of a series of workshops held in April of 2007 that produced a plan provisionally called "What Matters Most to New Zealanders" that has been supported by government departments (Statistics New Zealand, Treasury, Department of the Prime Minister, Ministry for Economic Development, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage), plus local government, the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development and a network of Civil Society organisations. It is a collaborative program to identify, measure and create "What Matters Most to New Zealanders" through community engagement and the development of national progress, wellbeing and sustainability indicators that measure the health of our social, cultural, economic and environmental capital.

Two types of communities will be engaged in "What Matters Most to New Zealanders", communities of interest (COI) and communities of place (COP). In the first instance setting up an infrastructure for engaging COP will require further developing a working relationship with local government alongside community service organisation, so this strategy if more long term. On the other hand COI allows relatively easy access through civil society organisations. Dave has been developing a civil society network that is presently composed of twelve umbrella groups representing hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders. He is in negotiation with another ten organisations. This is an open and inclusive process, so any organisation can be part of the network.

### **EEO Trust Work & Life Awards**

#### **Effective management of a diverse workforce is a major focus**

Last year's new Diversity Award attracted 16 entries from a range of large and small workplaces which were taking innovative approaches to maximising the potential of their workforces.

"All the signs are that New Zealand's skills shortage will continue to deepen this year and recruiting, retaining and motivating the very best people continues to be a challenge facing all employers," says EEO Trust Chief Executive Dr Philippa Reed. "Last year's entries focussed on new migrants, women, young people and a range of ethnicities. They were inspiring stories which demonstrate the Kiwi attitudes of tolerance, innovation and

inclusion. We share these stories with other employers needing new employment strategies for an evolving labour market.”

As well as the new diversity focus, the EEO Trust Work & Life Awards will continue to recognise work-life programmes and initiatives says Dr Reed. “Support for work-life balance is a key part of any employer’s branding as it enables the increasing number of people with commitments and interests outside work to contribute fully at work.”

Individuals who are leading the way in championing diversity or work-life balance are also invited to enter this year’s EEO Trust Work & Life Awards through the Walk the Talk Award. Dr Reed says that senior leadership commitment is critical to creating a culture of support and inclusion for anyone who has the appropriate skills and motivation, regardless of their background or responsibilities outside work.

The deadline for entries for the EEO Trust Work & Life Awards is Thursday July 24 and the Awards will be presented at a gala dinner at the Auckland Museum on October 30. Download the <<http://www.eeotrust.org.nz/content/docs/guidelines/EEO%20WLA%20EntryForm.pdf>>Entry Guidelines (335K pdf).

Contact Philippa Reed, Chief Executive, EEO Trust 09 525 3023 ;Jyoti Smith, Communications Manager, EEO Trust 0210 332266

### **Human Rights Film Festival: Call for Volunteers**

The Human Rights film festival is back - bigger, better and more powerful than ever before! This year they are celebrating something very special, and you have the opportunity to help them mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are looking for volunteers to help organise and promote the festival. <http://www.humanrights.net.nz/newsitems/HRFilmFestivalVolunteers>

### **Women in the Public Service**

Research into the public service has produced new data that shows that women continue to be under-represented at senior levels with women comprising 38% of senior managers in the public service. Women’s progress at the top is extremely slow. Since 2002 the percentage of women in senior management positions in the core public service has fluctuated between 35% in 2003 and 38% in 2007.

A total of 24 of the 35 public service departments employ more females than males. The high numbers of women employed in the state sector is explained by the relatively high number of female dominated occupations employed in the public service. These include social workers, case workers, clerical workers, nurses and teachers.

In the Census report the Minister of State Services is asked to set a benchmark for the State Services Commission to achieve gender parity in chief executive appointments in 5 years.

The incoming State Services Commissioner is also asked to make chief executives accountable through performance management processes for increased representation of women in senior management positions.  
NEON (National Equal Opportunities Network)

### **European Commission Report – Women and Men in Decision-making 2007**

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China in 1995, 189 states adopted the Beijing Platform for Action, which is considered a milestone for the enforcement of women’s rights across the world. The Platform for Action outlines 12 critical areas of concern where the violations of women’s rights and gender inequality persist, and proposes strategic objectives and actions for each area.

One of the areas of concern identified at Beijing was the under-representation of women in the decision-making process. Despite increased democratisation over the preceding decade, it was recognised that there had been little progress in improving the participation of women in decision-making through the attainment of political power or achieving the target endorsed by the United Nations economic and Social Council of having 30% women in decision-making positions by 1995. Indeed, at the time of the conference, the share of women in national parliaments across the world was only just over 10%, slightly lower than it had been eight years earlier. Since that time, there has been a steady, if slow, improvement so that by July 2007 women accounted for over 17% of members of national parliaments globally.

Although there remains much to do, the situation in Europe is better than in most other parts of the world and across the EU in the fourth quarter of 2007 there was an average of nearly 23% women in all houses of the national Parliaments. Strikingly, the Nordic countries lead the way for gender equality in the political arena and now have parliaments comprising an average of over 41% women. At the other extreme, the average level of female participation in politics remains at less than 10% in the Arab states, though it should be noted that this represents a three-fold improvement from the level of just over 3% in 1997.

The focus of the report is on the gender balance in senior decision-making positions in the political, public and economic domains. Yet; in all cases, these senior people have to come from somewhere – they need to be equipped with the skills and experience, through their education and career, to take on such responsibility. Hence the Beijing Platform for Action identified two key objectives for improving the situation of women in power and decision-making – firstly to ensure equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making, but equally to increase women’s capacity to participate in decision making and leadership. The participation of women in higher education and responsible jobs therefore represents a background potential from which some can – given the right opportunities – move forward into key decision-making positions.

BPW New Zealand

# Letters Sent

## IRD Child support – Voluntary Agreements

Hon. Peter Dunne, Minister of Revenue (Inland Revenue)

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) wishes to bring the following case to your attention. The Council is of the opinion that such a practice by the Department of Inland Revenue – Child Support Section is both inappropriate and insensitive and, moreover, will give rise to inaccurate statistical collection of defaulting child support payments. Please refer to the attached case.

During separation, the impact on the child is frequently at the forefront of any parent's mind. It is often the cause for much of the anxiety arising from a marital split. For an IRD Officer to suggest that having the child support payments facilitated and policed by IRD will stigmatise the child is not only false, but it is highly insensitive.

Moreover, the primary caregiver, usually the mother, should not be discouraged from using IRD facilities in relation to child support payments as it is one of the few safeguards available to her. Frequently, separated women are not financially equipped to engage the services of lawyers to ensure that former partners (fathers) regularly continue to make child support payments, particularly over the long-term.

The difficulty in ensuring the ongoing payment of child support often becomes most acute when the former partner enters into a new relationship and another family is started. A voluntary agreement entered into at such time as when the father is not yet in another relationship certainly may not reflect what could transpire as time passes.

Another benefit of using IRD for administering the voluntary agreements is that these agreements need to be re-confirmed each year. This means that if the contributor has had a change in circumstances, they can be readily picked up on. When the voluntary agreement falls outside of IRD, it can be difficult for the primary caregiver to get the former partner back to negotiate terms.

The Council is particularly concerned that other mothers/primary caregivers, who wanted/negotiated a voluntary agreement with former partners, may have likewise received such telephone calls from the Department of Inland Revenue and been dissuaded from utilising this safeguard.

Assuming this to be the case, the Council would appreciate responses to the following questions:

- How many voluntary agreements does the IRD currently administer?
- How many registered voluntary agreement applicants are contacted by the IRD and encouraged to handle the child support payments privately per annum?
- What number continue with IRD administering the voluntary agreement?
- What is the current level of child support defaulting on voluntary agreements – those administered by IRD and those handled privately?
- Is IRD responsible for the statistical data collection on defaulted child support payments (via voluntary agreements) that are being managed privately?
- Is it possible to have a registered voluntary agreement brought back under IRD control if privately handling the agreement does not work out?
- Regarding the policy and practices manual used by Inland

Revenue Department:

- Is it written policy that an IRD Officer should advise a parent that they will be stigmatising their child if they opt to have IRD administer child support payments?

## Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Funding

Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister of Tertiary Education

In 2007 the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) made a submission to the Select Committee on Science and Education in support of the general intention of the Education (Tertiary Reforms) Amendment Bill where that intention related to streamlining planning, funding and monitoring. NCWNZ also supported aligning tertiary outcomes with Government's intended economic, social and environmental interests. This letter is a follow-up to that submission.

In response to media publicity about the funding cuts experienced by many tertiary institutions, the NCWNZ Branches and individuals who responded to the TEC funding issue in January 2008 made the following points:

- In line with the 2007 submission there was still general support for the underlying aims of the TEC funding policy for accountability, wise use of scarce resources and focusing tertiary education on meeting social and economic needs.
- Members also accepted that the TEC's proposals for funding had been made known early enough in 2007 for institutions to have factored that into their strategic planning for 2008 and beyond.
- Members had no hard evidence at the time of responding to the funding issue, that there would be adverse outcomes for women. However they noted that the greatest users of short courses for employment and development were women, some of whom could be expected to be disadvantaged by reforms which limited access to training and development. Some members also commented that staff reductions would be certain to affect many women.
- One of NCWNZ's policies is that there needs to be flexibility and that 'one size fits all' has been shown in education to be inequitable. Concern was expressed in particular for the welfare of regions if tertiary education options were removed or greatly reduced. In particular, it was feared that more young people would leave their regions for tertiary education in larger urban centres and fail to return, that consolidation of course provision would create transport difficulties for those in outlying areas, and that home-based and rural people would have their options for life-long learning greatly reduced.
- In line with the need for flexibility, handling unique specialisations and meeting specific employment situations, members considered that each case for course provision and funding should be considered on its merits, where that case did not meet the broad TEC guidelines.

It is inevitable that the next three years will make the situation clearer and NCWNZ asks that the operation of the funding strategies should be monitored very carefully to ensure that the social and economic benefits are shared equally by all parts of the country and remedies put in place where imbalance exists. NCWNZ also requests that monitoring should be broadly based and include social impact reports covering all centres and communities.

NCWNZ is an umbrella organisation representing 47 Nationally Organised Societies and individual members. NCWNZ has 28 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of

those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's functions are to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action. Because the issue of funding reductions arose over the holiday period, this letter is based mainly on the responses of three Branches and NCWNZ policy established over many years.

**Letter to Fairfax Media Group Editor**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) requests that Fairfax New Zealand newspapers retract their coverage of the NCWNZ press release titled "Pride in being a Woman" issued on 7 March 2008 in celebration of International Women's Day.

We are writing to you on this matter because you are the Group Editor of Fairfax New Zealand, as we have a large membership base, we know this article did not just appear in the Dominion Post, but in the majority of the Fairfax stable newspapers, as well as the Stuff website and the Stuff news headlines that is sent out on the Vodafone network via text messaging.

we believe a retraction is required for the following reasons:

- The press release was so grossly misrepresented and misleading that issuing the numerous corrections required would not be sufficient.
- The coverage offered on the front page of the Dominion Post, for example, misrepresented this organisation to the extent that it was questionable that the Council was not subject to a personal attack by an aggrieved reporter.
- The title of this organisation is the National Council of Women of New Zealand; it is not the "National Council for Women".
- Again, considering the Dominion Post in particular, the Council at no point recommended nor even mentioned the words "finishing school", "women being demure", or "women acting more like ladies".
- It should be normal practice, if a reporter does not understand the material at hand, to go back to the original source to get clarification. We believe that this is the norm taught in journalism courses throughout the country.

- We also believe that journalists are taught to not just work from media releases and news wires but to go and contact the source as well as other relevant people who could contribute to the story, thus making the story fair and balanced.
- In its entire history, NCWNZ has never advocated for women to attend finishing school and the vast majority within this organisation would be completely opposed to such a recommendation. Anyone familiar with the Council would be aware of this; hence we can only assume the coverage was offered from a position of absolute ignorance or with the intent of deliberate maligning it.
- The issues raised by the Council in its press release were of a particularly serious nature. To trivialise these issues in the manner undertaken by Fairfax NZ was an act of socially irresponsible journalism.
- We believe that freedom of the press does not extend to misinformation, and/or fabrication of facts unless it is reported in your opinion pieces. NCWNZ's press release was reported as news, not opinion; therefore some degree of accuracy is required and expected.

Furthermore, Fairfax NZ newspapers play a critical role in reporting areas of social concern to the general public. We believe that to address the matter of young women in particular binge-drinking and placing themselves in vulnerable positions requires a special interest feature focussing on women's empowerment. This was the overall message of NCWNZ's original press release; women empowering themselves so that equality could be achieved. The Council would be fully supportive of such a piece being written and is prepared to use its network to furnish information on the various actions young women should be taking to achieve this end.

We await your response to our requests and any dialogue in which you wish to enter to resolve the complaints detailed in this letter. Be assured that if we do not feel that you have been able come up with a tenable solution within 14 days, we have no alternative than to proceed to the Press Council for resolution of this matter.



*Where women find strength*

**Branches Nationwide**  
**0800 GO GIRL (46 4475)**  
**www.contours.co.nz**



**CEDAW Alternative Shadow Report 2006**  
**The report cost \$18.00 (including pp)**  
**Contact: oa@ncwnz.org.nz ,(04) 473 7623**

# Official Replies

## **LETTER FROM THE HON. TREVOR MALLARD**

Thank you for your letter of 25 October 2007 to David McGee, Clerk of the House of Representatives, regarding the Employment Relations (Flexible Working Arrangements) Amendment Bill. Your letter has been referred to me to reply.

The Bill was read for the third time on 21 November and is now an Act which comes into force on 1 July 2008. The Supplementary Order Paper which you refer to in your letter was debated and agreed during the committee stage in the House.

As you know, the Supplementary Order Paper amended the eligibility criteria in the Act. The right to request flexible working arrangements will now apply to all employers that have the care of another person and been employed by their employer for six months or more.

I note your comments on the grounds for refusal. The grounds for refusal are provided to enable employers to consider the impact of a request for flexible working arrangements and, if such a request is unable to be accommodated, refuse the request in specific circumstances. The Department of Labour will be developing guidelines to assist employers and employees understand the process and on best approaches to dealing with requests. A "Trial" period would seem to be an appropriate approach in instances.

I also note your comments on the sections relating to non-

## **LETTER FROM THE HON. CHRIS CARTER**

Thank you for letter dated 13 November 2007 regarding the licensing of gym crèches.

Currently services providing care for three or more children under 6 on a regular basis are defined as "early childhood centres" under the Education Act 1989 and therefore must be licensed so that they meet the minimum educational, health and safety standards.

The Education Amendment Act was passed in 2006 contains a section that defines premises that are not early childcare centres. This includes "any premises during any period of use for the education or care of children for any period not exceeding 4 hours a week in circumstances where the children's parents or caregivers are (i) in close proximity to the children and are able to be contacted; and (ii) able to resume responsibility for the children at short notice."

A notice was published in the New Zealand Gazette on 29 November 2007 to bring this into effect.

This means from 30 November 2007 the licensing requirement will not apply to arrangements such as Sunday schools which may operate for fewer than 4 hours pre week.

The early childhood regulations were designed in the late 1980s to ensure that early childhood services offer quality and safe educational experiences. The Labour led government is very keen to promote increased participation in regular exercise and I am concerned that these regulations drafted before the growth attendance in recent years, may act as a disincentive for parents to enroll at gym or recreation centres.

Accordingly, I have asked the Ministry of Education to develop new regulations as part of the regulatory review, to clarify the requirements that will apply to gym and recreation centres. The ministry would welcome any comments or feedback on these regulations once they are completed initial work on how they might look. They have invited Fitness New Zealand to meet to explore the matter further.

compliance by employers. The purpose of those sections is to establish a transparent procedure for dealing with alleged non-compliance with the process of dealing with a request as set out in the Act. I agree with you that it is important to foster and maintain good working relationships between employer and employees. However, this must be balanced with a need to ensure that the process as set in the Act is adhered to. The process relating to non-compliance provides several opportunities for resolution through facilitation and mediation. If a case reaches the Employment Relations Authority and the Authority finds that the employer did not comply with the required process, and the employer has failed to resolve that issue with assistance from a labour inspector or through mediation, then it is reasonable for the Authority to have the power to penalise the employer up to a limited amount.

The penalty is not, as you suggest, compensation for not agreeing to a request for flexible working arrangements. An employee cannot take a case to the Authority on the basis of the employer not agreeing to a request. Cases can only be taken where an employee believes that their employer has wrongly determined that they are ineligible or in cases of non-compliance with the required process. Decisions regarding whether the request can be accommodated lie solely with the employer.

I appreciate your support for the Act during its passage through Parliament and thank you for writing to me

# Meeting Report

## **National Interfaith Forum, Wellington**

This year's theme was "Beyond Tolerance: Towards Understanding and Respect".

The youth forum focused on "creative encounters generating change". Delegates endorsed the Statement on Religious Diversity, and supported activities marking the forthcoming 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the development of a national youth interfaith network, and regional youth interfaith councils. They noted the importance of developing educational resources on religious diversity and sought youth input into policy and legislative changes.

The women's forum included a number of presentations and workshops, and shared stories. Participants looked at both personal and strategic ways of supporting interfaith understanding. They supported more social interaction and planned activities between the annual forums, better use of existing interfaith directories, a more strategic approach to public relations, more information sharing and an expanded interfaith website.

The Forum also included a public address on the Sunday evening by New Zealand born Rabbi David Rose, who is the Hebrew Congregation Rabbi for East Scotland, Executive Member of the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association and Executive Member of the Conference of Scotland's Religious Leaders. Rabbi Rose spoke of his experience of interfaith activity in Edinburgh, the importance of effective relationships between faith communities and government, and four principles - integrity, openness, inclusion and honesty - that should underpin interfaith dialogue.

The Governor General, Hon Anand Satyanand, spoke of New Zealand's increased religious diversity, and the fact that public reac-

tion to some incidents in recent years revealed a continuing lack of understanding of different religions. He referred to the preamble of the Statement on Religious Diversity, and its account of the guarantee of religious diversity at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. He emphasised the importance of intra-faith as well as interfaith dialogue.

## **Pay and Employment Equity Forum**

Most of the audience were human resource professionals in government departments or affiliated organisations with some union officials. The ideas discussed were based on work that had already been done by the public sector and tools were directed mostly at big organisations. One of the main points was that HR units were being provided with training in the recognition of issues, and with computer tools for analysing pay and gender – these were not available previously. It was also stressed that they provided indicators only and it would still be necessary to look beyond the apparent discrimination to see whether it had a simple explanation or might even be justified.

## **Cluster Munitions Conference**

The purpose of the Wellington Conference was that, through discussion, agreement could be reached on the treaty text that would serve as a basis for formal negotiations due to take place in Dublin in May – this is to finalise the wording of the planned Convention to prohibit the use, production, trade, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. 122 states met for the conference on addressing the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions and 82 countries spoke up to explicitly endorse the Wellington Conference Declaration. NANA was closely involved in the preparations for this Conference and was a member of the coalition which was responsible for the activities of the NGO community both local

# Conferences

## **Workshops on ecological flows and water levels**

The Ministry for the Environment is holding public workshops held on the proposed National Environmental Standard on Ecological Flows and Water Levels. Please see schedule below.

Dunedin: Wednesday 30th April, 1:00 – 4:00pm, Dunedin Centre

Christchurch: Thursday 1st May, 9:00 – 12:00pm, Copthorne Central

Nelson: Friday 2nd May, 9:00 – 12:00pm, Rutherford Hotel

Wellington: Monday 5th May, 9:00 – 12:00pm, Environment House 1st Floor

New Plymouth: Tuesday 6th May, 1:30 – 4:30pm, Plymouth International Hotel

Napier: Wednesday 7th May, 10:30 – 1:30pm, War Memorial Conference Centre

Hamilton: Thursday 8th May, 9:00 – 12:00pm, SkyCity Hamilton Function Centre

Auckland: Friday 9th May, 9:00 – 12:00pm, Mercure Hotel Auckland

## **He Mana tō ia Tamaiti/ Every Child Counts Conference and Awards Ceremony.**

To be held in Wellington, 10 and 11 September 2008, with the conference theme: 'For our children: A better today, a better tomorrow. What's it going to take?'

The programme provides for 50 minute interactive workshop sessions. We invite you to submit an abstract to present a workshop about your work or research as it relates to this year's conference theme and the four core platforms of Every Child Counts.

The core platforms for Every Child Counts are:

- 1.Placing children at centre of policy and planning
- 2.Ensuring every child gets a good start in the early years
- 3.Reducing child abuse and neglect, and
- 4.Ending child poverty.

We suggest that workshops are structured to allow a maximum of dialogue and exchange between delegates, with presentations

limited to 35 minutes then followed by questions and discussion.

Invitation for Early Registration: To register your interest in attending the conference, please email:

Deborah Morris-Travers <mailto:children1st@xtra.co.nz>

## **New Zealand Leadership Week 26 July-1 August**

Organised by the Sir Peter Blake Trust, this will be a week of events where organisations involved in developing leadership will showcase their work. More information at [www.nzleadershipweek.org](http://www.nzleadershipweek.org).

# Sited

## **For your Rose Bowl Competition work**

Here are some more websites to look for ideas for how you might reduce your carbon footprint. Find the "what's your next step?" sustainability challenge at [www.sustainability.govt.nz](http://www.sustainability.govt.nz). The website aims to inform and encourage householders to tackle their impact on the environment. It includes practical advice to improve the way we use water and energy in our homes, and includes case studies.

Some practical tips about 'greening your life' available on the Greenpeace website at <http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/take-action/green-your-life> and on specifically energy efficiency at <http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/campaigns/climate-change/action/energy-efficient>

The Be The Change website is devoted almost entirely to practical ideas and tips for ways that people can reduce their impact on the climate, so it's a great place to start. <http://www.bethechange.org.nz/>

## **Building Healthy Children**

The Government has launched a new website that uses online games to try and get children to be more active in the real world

It is part of the Government's four-year \$67 million anti-obesity campaign announced in 2006.

The website, aimed at 5-12-year-olds also teaches children about the importance of healthy food and drinks. Find this at <http://www.mission-on.co.nz>

## **Parents Lobbying for Income Splitting**

Blog: Parents Choice 08

Post: Support growing for Income Splitting

Link: <http://parentschoice08.blogspot.com/2008/03/support-growing-for-income-splitting.html>

## **NZFVC Newsletter**

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse newsletter is now available at <http://www.nzfvc.org.nz/14309.pub>

Included in this issue of the NZFVC Newsletter

- Elder Abuse and Neglect – Risk and Protective Factors
- New Disabilities Coalition Against Violence
- Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families – New Programme of Action
- Phases of Growth for Abused Women
- Men's Attitudes to Partner Violence
- Best Practice in School-based Violence Prevention Programmes
- Elder Abuse and Neglect Guidelines

## **Elsewoman, from Anne Else**

Anne has just started writing a new blog, Elsewoman. Anne says, "You can read it, and send me your comments, on <http://elsewoman.blogspot.com>

I'll still be writing my Letter from Elsewhere on <http://www.scoop.co.nz> but the blog will give me more scope for faster responses, and I'll be able to tackle a broader range of topics - plus booknotes and foodnotes".

# Submission Summaries

## S08.02 Biofuel Bill

The submission gave examples of adverse publicity for biofuels, and indicated members' support for the use of waste products for biofuel production rather than crops grown specifically for this purpose. Members considered that the amounts proposed to be introduced would make little difference to climate change impacts and the true costs of biofuels may offset the benefits. There was strong support for the inclusion of specified environmental and sustainability standards and for the energy involved in producing biofuels be one of the criteria to be considered.

## S08.06 Affordable Housing: Enabling Territorial

## Authorities Bill

The submission supported the view that governments should encourage the provision of low-cost housing for first home buyers. The Bill gives territorial authorities the opportunity to move in this area, but there is a possible risk of them being discouraged from action due to the financial cost of surveying the housing needs of regions and creating an affordable housing policy. It would be valuable for the government to review the matter in the future to see whether the Bill's provisions were proving effective.

# Action Items

## From Education Standing Committee

### SCHOOLS PLUS DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

The purpose of the Schools Plus document is to ensure that ALL young people are in education, skills, or structured learning, relevant to their needs and abilities, until the age of 18. The document includes 18 questions for our response to enable the Government to identify the most effective ways of lifting young people's participation and achievement in education and training. These are listed below in 5 groups with a little explanation before each group of questions.

Almost 30% of NZ students leave school before their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Around 40% leave with less than NCEA level 2 which is needed for Modern Apprenticeships and higher education. In 2005 only 56% of 18yr olds were engaged in some form of education. Around 20,000 15 – 19 yr olds are NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

The government's intention is to encourage greater engagement and participation, through bringing all parts of the community on board and by focusing young people by each having an active Education Plan by the time they reach 18. Youth Apprenticeship schemes will be in all schools by 2011.

1. What key factors have the greatest impact on student's participation, engagement and achievement in school?
2. To ensure that students develop a stake in their own learning, what should be included in an education plan?
3. How can the school system be made more responsive to Maori students and increase participation and achievement?
4. .How can the sector increase engagement and achievement for Pasifika students?
5. From a school's perspective, what are the critical factors in establishing and strengthening partnerships with students, families whanau, other schools, tertiary education organizations and community organizations?
6. Schools Plus will mean supporting young employees in new learning opportunities through work, and benefit employers by encouraging capable and motivated employees.
7. What do employers see as the key barriers to providing ongoing learning and training opportunities to young employees?
8. 7From a business perspective, what is the best way to deliver on-going learning and training opportunities to young employees?
9. .What is the role of employers in ensuring a young employee's education plan is acted upon?
10. From the employers' perspective, what are the critical factors in establishing and strengthening partnerships with schools, families, whanau, tertiary education organizations, and community organizations?
11. Schools Plus is about tertiary organizations partnering and working with schools to provide a wider range of learning opportunities for students. School leavers under 18 will be connected to high quality, relevant tertiary training or education. Senior secondary students will be able to take part in tertiary training or education along with secondary school courses.
12. .How can tertiary education organizations and schools work together to offer high quality and relevant learning opportunities for senior secondary students?
13. How can tertiary education organizations and schools work together and best support young people in making good decisions about their options in education?
14. From the tertiary perspective, what are the critical factors in establishing and strengthening partnerships with schools, whanau and community organizations?
15. The positive and active support of families, whanau, iwi, and communities is critical to the success of Education Plus. Often members of these groups are the first to notice disengagement.
16. .How can families, whanau, iwi, and communities best support young people to participate and achieve in education?
17. .What types of social services do young people need to overcome barriers to participation in education?
18. What services and assistance would help families, whanau, iwi and communities support their young people to continue in education and training?
19. Achieving the goal of every young person being in education, skills or structured learning, relevant to their needs and abilities until the age of 18, will have a significant impact on our education system, in the workplace and across our communities. Young people may need financial advice and assistance. Agencies will need to ensure that they are offering the right support to young people who face multiple barriers to learning. Targeted assistance may be needed. Agencies will need to be accountable and ensure that their programmes complement, reinforce and support each other.
20. .Which students are likely to need additional support to remain in education, skills or structured learning? What support should they get, and from whom?
21. .What are some good examples of schools and non-government organizations working together for young people?

22. The government wants Schools Plus to meet the needs of all students of all abilities. How much flexibility should Schools Plus provide? Who should decide?

The Schools Plus Discussion Document is available at [www.schoolsplus.govt.nz/downloads/SchoolsPlusQuestionsWeb.pdf](http://www.schoolsplus.govt.nz/downloads/SchoolsPlusQuestionsWeb.pdf) If you run off a copy of the questions you will find that each question has a 4 lined box for answers. If you use this form please still send the completed form to NO by 20 May. Note the number involved in the response.

## Our Path To Te Reo (Or Tikanga Maori)

### Marae visit, Part 2, The Welcome

A marae is a place identified by Maori as their place, the place to which they will return, the place they call home: it is a place where the dead are farewelled, where the battles of words are held, where grievances are aired and solved, where the actions of the living are celebrated.

To visit such a place is to be enveloped in the traditions of the past; here the way of the European of just walking up to the door and knocking is not the way to experience the age-old ritual. There is a timelessness about the process; where the rush of life is left behind.

'The first threshold is the gate of the *marae*, which may be marked by a formal gateway, or there may be just a stone marker.'<sup>1</sup> Here the visitors gather and wait to be called.

It is the voice of a senior woman, *kuiā*, that is first heard, calling to the visitors. She is deemed to have the knowledge about the visitors and creates an appropriate call, *karanga*. A woman from the visiting group responds, confirming who they are and acknowledging their host. Whether there is one call, two or even three by the host will depend upon the *mana* of the guests.

Even the shape of the visiting party is prescribed, with the women walking ahead and the men arranging themselves to the back and sides of the group. This is to protect the women from any attack, recognising that women hold the key to the continuation of the tribes.

At one point the visitors will halt and stand with heads bowed remembering those who have died.

Seating arrangements are the reverse of the entry, with the men in front of the women, again historically to protect the women from any sudden attack by the other group facing them.

Official welcome speeches now take place. The order of speakers varies: at some *marae* the host speakers all have a turn then hand over to the visitors: in other areas host/visitors alternate. At the end of his speech each speaker, *kai korero*, will sing a *waiata*. Others from his group stand and join in, in support.

The last visiting speaker has the task of laying the *koha* or gift on the floor between the two groups. These days the gift is usually money collected from amongst the visitors as they gather at the gate.

'At the end of the speeches the home people will line up for the *harirū*, the greeting. The *hongi* or pressing of noses is the final expression of grief for the dead, as well as a greeting for the living. The European handshake has also been added to the *harirū*.'<sup>1</sup> In some areas the *hongi* also represents the exchange of breath thus imbuing a sense of oneness between host and visitors alike.

The final act is the sharing of a meal

<sup>1</sup> *te whare runanga, the Maori meeting house* by D R Simmons, 1997. Used with permission of Raupo Publishing

### Camellia Fund

(formerly the 5 cent Fund)

#### Have you thought of making a Donation to NCWNZ?

The National Council of Women of NZ is a charitable organisation, listed as a donee organisation that Inland Revenue has approved for the purposes of sections KC 5, DB 32 and DV 11 of the Income Tax Act 2004.

This means that should you wish to donate to NCWNZ you are able to claim for a rebate through the Inland Revenue Department.

Your donation will be used by NCWNZ in the following ways, for working on issues, such as progressing the CEDAW recommendations and the NCWNZ target foci, and for operating expenses.

Donations should be sent to the National Office, National Council of Women of New Zealand, PO Box 12117, Thorndon, Wellington 6144.



# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NCWNZ CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS 2008

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NCWNZ CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS 2008

Additions are underlined. Deletions are in *italics* within a [square bracket]

### CONSTITUTION RULE IV MEMBERSHIP

Proposed by Board of Management

**The Council shall consist of:**

#### **6. Regional Consultation Groups**

New Part

#### **7 Regional Consultation Groups**

**i. Regional Consultation Groups shall be formed in regions where a Branch has been disestablished. The establishment of a Regional Consultation Group will serve the purpose of keeping a link with the local community to the Council.**

**ii. Regional Consultation Groups shall not be members of the National Executive.**

Notes:

Regional Consultation Groups have been trialed over the past two years. They were instigated when a Branch went into recess due to the required number of affiliations (10) not being maintained. The members that were left were keen to continue actively participating in NCWNZ but with the branch's closure had no means to do so, especially if they were an individual member or an affiliate of a local society. With no formal branch structure the Group operates on an informal basis making direct contact with National Office when responding to Action Items and the like. In this way prospective members can be directed to an active group that when it has reached the required number of affiliations can be reconstituted as a Branch.

#### **Rule VIII Special Officers:**

Proposed by Board of Management

**3. delete [*Five members of the Parliamentary Watch Committee.*]**

Notes:

Deleting the actual number of Parliamentary Watch Committee members will allow for flexibility in the Committee. It aligns the PWC Committee members with the same status as nucleus and corresponding members of Standing Committees.

#### **Rule XI Elections:**

Proposed by Board of Management

**2 (b) delete clause [*No person shall be eligible for nomination as a member of the Parliamentary Watch Committee unless she is a Representative Member, an Associate Member, or an Individual Member in a Branch, or a member of a society affiliated to a Branch or of a Nationally Organised Society.*]**

Notes:

This follows on from Rule VIII 3, in that if the members of PWC are no longer Special Officers then there is no need to specify the eligibility of the Committee members.

**(c) Renumbered (b)**

**(d) Renumbered (c)**

**(e) Renumbered (d)**

**(f) Renumbered (e)**

Notes:

19The Circular No. 512

Allows for the continuity of renumbering for Rule XI.

### BY LAWS

#### **By Law 11**

Proposed by Board of Management

**The Parliamentary Watch Committee shall study pending legislation and Council policy with a view to supplying immediate information to the Board of Management and through it to Branches, Nationally Organised Societies, National Members and Standing Committees.**

Notes:

The addition of 'and Council policy' clarifies the duties of PWC.

The addition of 'National Members' recognises the role that this category of member can contribute to NCWNZ.

**Delete current clause [*The members of the Parliamentary Watch Committee shall be resident in the greater Wellington area.*]**

**New Clause**

**(b) Upon the election of the Convener, a nucleus committee shall be formed from the members of the Council or affiliated societies. Nucleus Members shall be nominated by Branches, Nationally Organised Societies and National Members from among their members with the final selection made by the Board of Management.**

Notes:

Deleting Part 3 of this Rule removes the requirement that members of the Parliamentary Watch Committee have to be resident in the greater Wellington. While it will be necessary to have a number of members who are available to present in person to Parliamentary Select Committees and the like, it will provide for flexibility and to take advantage of future advancements in electronic communication. Branches and Nationally Organised Societies will be able to nominate, as they currently do. The Board of Management will make the final selection of the Committee from the nominations.

**Delete. [*The Parliamentary Watch Committee may, with the consent of the Board of Management, co-opt additional members.*]**

Notes:

As the number on the Parliamentary Watch Committee is no longer specified the need to co-opt is no longer required.

#### **By Law 12**

Proposed by Board of Management

**(b) Membership of Standing Committees shall be Made up of a nucleus committee and corresponding members.**

**Delete [*Nominated by Branches and Nationally Organised Societies from among their members prior to Conference;*]**

**Delete [*Limited to one nomination per Standing Committee from each Branch and Nationally Organised Society, except where the nominees have distinct areas of contribution to the subject of the Standing Committee when at the discretion of the Board of Management, more than one nomination may be made from the Branch or Nationally Organised Society.*]**

Notes:

The two sub clauses ii and iii have been moved, for clarification,

as a new part (d) i and ii.

**Corresponding Members shall be**

**Nominated by Branches, Nationally Organised Societies and National Members from among their members;**

**Limited to one nomination per Standing Committee from each Branch, Nationally Organised Society and National Member, except where the nominees have distinct areas of contribution to the subject of the Standing Committee when at the discretion of the Board of Management, more than one nomination may be made from the Branch, Nationally Organised Society or National Member.**

Notes:

The addition of 'National Member(s)' recognises the role that this category of member can contribute to NCWNZ.

The deletion of 'prior to Conference' from (b) ii when renumbered as (d) i allows for nominations to be accepted during the term between Conferences.

- (d) Renumbered (e)**
- (e) Renumbered (f)**
- (f) Renumbered (g)**
- (g) Renumbered (h)**
- (h) Renumbered (i)**

Notes:

Allows for the continuity of renumbering for By Law 12.

**Closing date for amendments to the following Constitution and By Law proposals is 30 June 2008.**

## Calendar 2008

### May

10 - 11 **Board Meeting**

27 Circular dispatch

30 List of Branch Officers due at National Office

30 Closing date for nominations to the Board of Management, Standing Committee Conveners, Parliamentary Watch Committee

30 Closing date for nominations for Distinguished Service Award

### June

27 Circular dispatch

30 Branch Dues and Circular Orders due at National Office

30 2 copies of Branch Annual Reports & Financial Statements due at National Office

30 Closing date for proposed amendments to the By Laws and Constitution

### July

1 Closing date for amendments to

### Remits

3 **Closing date for proposed amendments to remits**

11 World Population Day

19 - 20 Board Meeting

28 Circular dispatch

31 Last day for Payment of Branch Dues

### August

9 International Day of Indigenous People

22 Circular dispatch

### September

1 **Closing date for National Executive Registrations**

19 Suffrage Day

26 Circular Dispatch

**30 Board Meeting**

### October

**1 Board Meeting**

**2 - 5 National Conference Meeting**

### Masterton

15 International Day for Rural Women

16 World Food Day

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

### October

**17 - 19 Standing Committee Convener and Board training**

24 United Nations Day

31 Circular dispatch

### November

20 Universal Children's Day

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

**29 30 Board Meeting**

### December

1 International AIDS Day

3 International Day of Disabled Persons

10 International Human Rights Day

## Enclosures

**S08.02 Biofuel Bill**

**S08.06 Affordable Housing: Enabling Territorial Authorities Bill**

### THE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE CIRCULAR IS 8<sup>th</sup> OF EVERY MONTH

Please send all contributions to the Circular Editor via the National Office

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Circular are not necessarily those of the National Council of Women of New Zealand*