



Your Views: Does NCWNZ work for charitable purposes?

In order to convey the breadth of the work of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ), the passion and commitment of its members, and the public good achieved through its programmes and activities, NCWNZ sent a brief questionnaire to its contacts asking for their views.

The timeframe for responses was extremely short (2 days), given the deadline set by the Charities Commission, however, the number of respondents was overwhelming and shows the importance given to this matter by all involved.

NCWNZ would like to thank all those who have devoted time to explaining, in their own words, how the Council serves women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level and how this provides benefit to all New Zealanders.

NCWNZ is of the belief that it is the opinions of these women and women's organisations that determines the true public benefit that this organisation provides. All respondents have a direct relationship with the Council and strongly support the common goal of promoting the needs and rights of women, children and families.

It is essential that the Charities Commission Board take their views into consideration before moving to deregister the National Council of Women of New Zealand. We believe that these responses clearly show that it would not be in the public interest to remove this entity from the register.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Dame Miriam Dell

Involvement with NCWNZ: Past Branch President, Past National President, Past President of the International Council of Women (ICW), Committee of Honour ICW, Life Member NCWNZ

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

The whole purpose of the organisation is to do just that.

At Branch level each branch has its own commitments in the community. These range from support for such organisations as Women's Refuge, Second Chance Education et al; support for new immigrants and refugees; working with local bodies to improve public facilities (e.g. facilities for the disabled, siting of public toilets etc.); encouraging women to stand for public office.

Branches of NCWNZ consist of representatives of affiliated organisations. Each of those organisations is involved in serving the community and the interests and well-being of women. The effect of the combined activities of the affiliated organisations and the Branch itself reach very widely into the whole community.

At National level, NCWNZ brings together the combined experience of its member Nationally Organised Societies (NOS). Each of these NOS has national and local activities to support and enhance the wellbeing of their members and communities. Many of them have charitable status in their own right.

NCWNZ develops work programmes which educate and support Branch activities. The Standing Committees research and keep abreast of local and national developments in their areas of expertise which affect the well-being of women and the communities they live in.

NCWNZ is then able to use this information to inform the appropriate decision makers and contribute to public debate, thus working to its objective of improving the well-being of women, their families and the communities in which they live.

NCWNZ is a member of the International Council of Women which was established in 1888 and currently has affiliated Councils in about 74 countries. Many members of NCWNZ have been elected to office in the ICW. Some have served as Conveners of International Standing Committees, some have been Board members and Vice- Presidents of the organisation and I was President 1979-86.

The ICW has had consultative status with the UN from 1945 and has a team of representatives at all UN centres, agencies and organisations.

ICW also has an active programme of small projects in 25 countries, each of which improves the lives and opportunities for women in the deprived communities in which they live.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Branches contribute to public benefit in their communities as outlined above.

Nationally Organised Societies do the same.

At national level NCWNZ provides information to and support for its branches and Nationally Organised Societies and their activities.

NCWNZ is able to contribute its experience to discussions at national level which support its commitment to improving the well-being of women and society as a whole. It represents NGO women on a number of other bodies.

Most importantly it co-ordinates the preparation of the NGO report to CEDAW which presents the views of NZ women on their progress and well-being.

NCWNZ, because of the way it brings together women from all sectors of the community at both local and national level is the strongest non-governmental voice for women and their contribution to the well-being of the communities in which they live. Those communities include all who live in them, men, women, children and all ethnic groups.

All those participating in the work of NCW do so voluntarily.

NCWNZ has worked for the public benefit of New Zealand and internationally for over 100 years.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Dame Laurie Salas, DBE, QSO

Involvement with NCWNZ: Current National Life Member, former National Secretary, National Vice President, Convener of Parliamentary Watch Committee.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

At local level representatives of constituent organisations support church charity functions, breast cancer awareness, Pacific development projects, fair trade, women's refuges, ethnic women's network, family planning, victim support, et al

At National level – see our Aims including “social welfare of the community”

At International level – to link with NCW in other countries through the International Council and thus promote friendships and peace.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ produces a monthly circular which has a wide circulation including recipients and readers as well as NCW members. The contents include many items of interest and advice – on the environment, welfare projects, justice issues, ethnicity concerns, comments on current legislation and current education debates, as well as correspondence between the Council and Government Ministers.

This dissemination of informative complements the practical work that hundreds of women NCW members do voluntarily in helping others – as one of our aims says “...to work for the social, legal and economic advancement and development of women.”

The ‘public benefit’ of NCW is instanced by the many personal stories of women, and their families, having benefitted materially and emotional through the help and support of the National Council of Women.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Anne Todd Lambie

Involvement with NCWNZ: Extensive involvement since early 1980's as Representative for BPW Tauranga to 1st Vice President at the turn of the century.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

By providing "the voice of reason" on many issues which affect New Zealand (and internationally), especially women and children.

NCWNZ promotes intelligent debate and discussion of issues affecting women and society.

Through careful consultation, via Branches and Affiliated organisations, NCWNZ makes submissions on legislations and provides feedback on Parliamentary or Civil Service Papers put out for consultation.

As can be seen from the majority of Affiliates, NCWNZ members are generally relatively conservative with firm considered opinions they share with NCW members, and, where possible, form a considered, carefully debated consensus view. Where this is not possible, as there is no clear consensus, the key perspectives are provided. Because they are relatively conservative (as opposed to "radical"), and are not a single issue lobby, nor one of the well funded organisations who provide input to parliament, the NCWNZ Memberships often forward thinking views espoused deserve serious consideration.

Locally the 3 branches with which I have been involved, take an active interest in, and engage with their Local Authorities offering Submissions on Plans and Local Issues and always actively promote Elections, Local or National, usually via Candidate Forms.

Internationally NCWNZ is best recognised for its co-ordination of the Alternate/Shadow Reports for CEDAW, although it has, from time to time, provided financial, moral and practical support to Sister NCW Organisations throughout the World, especially in the Pacific.

NCWNZ is an important part of New Zealand's Civil Society, which has a critical role in a functional Democracy. The most stable Democracies are one in which there is an active Civil Society.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

- Education of the thousands of women the organisation reaches
- Education of Politicians (National and Local)
- Providing the "voice of reason" to Parliament and Local Authorities
- Improvement of the wellbeing of Women and Families – without NCWNZ or its foremothers we would not have the Vote/Women in Parliament, on Juries, in the Police Service/general Equal Rights. (We still don't have equality, hence the need for NCWNZ to continue its work).
- Co-ordinating the Alternate/Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee using the extensive 114 year old NCWNZ Network, as well as linking in with thousands of other New Zealand Women and Girls who are not usually affiliated with NCWNZ. This provides the NGO input CEDAW require – a very broad and highly professional "Census" on where New Zealand Women see themselves and what are the current and developing issues of concern for New Zealand women.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Wendy Zemanek, New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been involved with NCWNZ at national level since 1990. I am passionate about NCWNZ because of the endless good it does in the community and the shared wisdom that members contribute. I am proud that I received the QSM in 2004 and the Suffrage Medal in 1993 for my contribution.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ serves women by a two-way process of communication.

1. The national body disseminates information on important issues to New Zealand women through its monthly Circular, the website and email.
2. In turn, the member organisations feed information in to the national body. This comes from hundreds of women in all walks of life, from numerous organisations, all over the country.

This means that members are well informed and able to make careful judgements and suggestions on matters of concern.

Members contribute to submissions on consumer affairs, economics, education, employment, environment, family affairs, health, Justice and law reform, public issues and social issues.

The Parliamentary Watch Committee oversees the writing of submissions on proposed new legislation and members present oral submissions to parliamentary select committees. PWC also oversees the sending out of discussion documents that often preclude major non-legislative changes.

A recent success was the Cotton Off campaign which led to the removal of a brand of clothing for young children which had implicit sexual messages on it.

Life Members and other experienced leaders

Our life members are truly women of wisdom who offer their years of experience willingly whenever they are asked to contribute. I mention especially Dame Miriam Dell, who also chaired the International Council of Women, Dame Vivienne Boyd, Dame Alison Roxburgh.

NCWNZ is so highly regarded that we are able to attract speakers of a very high calibre to our national meetings. Speakers at the 2009 meeting included Diana Crossan, Retirement Commissioner; Dr Jan Pryor, Chief Commissioner Families Commission; Deborah Battel, Banking Ombudsman; Karen Stevens, Insurance Ombudsman. I am sure they were all pleased to attend because they recognised how far their message would be spread through the NCWNZ network.

International

NCWNZ is part of the International Council of Women and through this membership, is able to bring international concerns to local women.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

This is indicated in the information above.

In addition, the NCWNZ Register of Resolutions shows our huge number of wide and varied concerns. Often these resolutions have been passed long before the issues became general public concerns e.g. requests for women police, concern about preserving the West Coast forests.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Manawatu Branch NCW

Audrey Jarvis, President, Methodist Women's Fellowship Representative.

Judith Dell Panny, Vice President, Representative from Federation of Graduate Women.

Involvement with NCWNZ: President and Vice-President, Manawatu Branch

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Our work is not-for-profit and we are all volunteers. We are involved in education, through the public meetings we run, through workshops like those for women seeking public office, or through specific projects such as our support for the 'Plant to Plate' programme in schools.

Our monthly 'Circular' provides our members with objective information on contemporary social issues involving women, children and the well-being of the community as a whole, indicating where help is needed: 'Grandparents Raising Grandchildren', for example.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

At the request of whichever government may be in power, we are called upon to give our considered response to proposed new legislation. Governments are required by statute to consult widely before new legislation is enacted.

Our usefulness in this role follows from the fact that our members are drawn from many organisations and include women of all political persuasions.

Date: 6 July 2010

Name/Organisation: NCW Taranaki Branch, Urenui and Districts Community Rural Health Group Management committee.

Tikorangi Women's Institute.

Involvement with NCWNZ: Executive member Taranaki Branch, Past President.

Corresponding member of Health Standing Committee. Taranaki Branch.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Locally

- By raising topics concerning women and their families I am able to report to my chosen organisations and learn their opinions through discussion and education and return the views of the wider community back to the Board.
- Guest speakers inform branch members who in turn are able to contribute financially to their organisations for specific projects.
- District councillors are provided with copies of the Circular and the Mayoress is the branch Patron and attends meetings when able thus getting feedback to the Council.
- The Branch has been able to facilitate meetings for the wider community to discuss C.E.D.A.W. which the Board report to the United Nations.

Nationally

- Through the Circular we are informed and the Bi Annual conference

Internationally

- We are made aware of the conditions of women in the wider world.
- Reporting to the United Nations.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

In Taranaki NCWNZ informs and educates District Councillors, Health Board Members, and the community at large on matters concerning women and their families – at an open meeting we have had up to 100 women attend.

I am sure my chosen organisations benefit by my attending and reporting back to their meetings.

By donating financially to selected needy groups within the province.

Name/Organisation: Altrusa International District Fifteen Inc.

Involvement with NCWNZ: Altrusa International District Fifteen Inc is a Nationally Organised Society affiliated to NCWNZ.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ serves to provide an extra resource for Altrusa Clubs and other members of the community by:

- a) NCWNZ is viewed by the Altrusans as the primary lobby group which focuses on women, children and the family at a national (governmental) and international (via international memberships) level.
- b) NCWNZ disseminates information straight from the government – political issues of the day, legislative directions that will directly impact women, and children in the community;
- c) NCWNZ is a facilitator – the organisation runs focus groups and seminars on the issues of the day, the seminars are open to and attended by representatives of women from all groups within New Zealand, whether or not the organisations are affiliated members of NCWNZ. These forums are open to ALL.
- d) NCWNZ branches then collates all the information and findings from the seminars and at the head office in Wellington combines the information into clear detailed reports which are provided to the government ministries and political parties;
- e) NCWNZ provides a unified voice for women, the family and the community by taking the information and presenting it to the government.
- f) NCWNZ is a member of the International Council of Women, which has a seat at the United Nations – The organisation obtains detailed information from the International organisation and disseminates back to its members.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

- a) NCWNZ focuses on issues that relate to women, children, the family and the communities in which families live.

The NZ Suffragists were the first to win the right for women to vote in NZ, and the world in 1893. In 1896 the NCWNZ was formed & has worked tirelessly to lobby the NZ Government of the day on issues in support of a better life/environment for women, the family and the community.
- b) In its role as coordinator of the CEDAW report – NCWNZ is providing an alternative “Report Card” for the United Nations which is reviewing the Government’s progress towards equality for women within the community. The Government will provide a self-review; NCWNZ will coordinate within the nation to provide an alternative review of progress.
- c) NCWNZ provides a public benefit by the press releases to increase awareness of issues that relate to women, the family and community. The organisation supports the releases with research.

Regards

Leanne Milligan

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: NZ Playcentre Federation

Involvement with NCWNZ: Nationally Affiliated Society

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ provides Playcentre with an opportunity to have a voice on matters of importance to our families, which would not happen in a volunteer organisation such as ours that is already overstretched in terms of volunteer time. The information gathering and distribution to us of current issues is invaluable, as is the collating and writing of submissions. This work is beyond our capacity yet collectively our members have a lot of knowledge to share with policy makers about the reality of family life in Aotearoa/NZ. Playcentre appreciates the opportunity to participate in the democratic processes of this country, and the NCWNZ structure enables us to do this.

'Charity' is not just about the 'doing' of good works; it is also about speaking for those unable to speak for themselves. Issues such as poverty, according to the Child Poverty Advocacy Group, have a political solution. Therefore to address this and other community issues, charities should be able to express their views in a political forum at the same time as carrying out their work in the community. NCWNZ provides a structure whereby this can happen. In terms of Playcentre, where we can have a voice with the Ministry of Education regarding our education purposes, we do not have any direct voice for other issues which affect us – for example family violence or maternity services.

History shows that governments and policy makers prefer to deal with umbrella groups and collated opinions (Sonya Davies set up the first childcare union because of this advice received from a Minister). It is a more efficient way of consulting and of reaching individuals. The NCWNZ therefore contributes to the process of government, yet at the same time remaining apolitical. It is the views of the membership that are promoted, not those of any particular party.

NCWNZ also provides an international voice for us, as a proven representative in the UN arena. Funding is limited for NGOs to attend UN Committee, so it makes sense to have an umbrella group to represent us and having such a 'watch dog' is instrumental in keeping a balance to the government's report. If funding is limited from the government, and the organisation cannot apply for grants due to a lack of charitable status, then the members themselves have to foot the bill so that the people's voice can be represented.

Prepared by Suzanne Manning, NZPF

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Quota International

Involvement with NCWNZ: Affiliated group at national level. I represent our Quota International Club at the local branch and hold the Branch secretary's position. I am a past Quota District Governor for this area and in that capacity began by representing all the Clubs at NCWNZ Conferences. I am also a member of the Education Committee.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ constantly surveys and listens to the concerns and opinions of its members and acts accordingly at the highest level with dignity and professionalism. It is a positive force in the community that is held in high regard by both local and government politicians.

It provides a much needed vehicle in our communities through which women and their families can bring their ideas and concerns to the attention of these governing bodies in local, national and international levels.

NCWNZ provides an important link at the international level with its very well presented CEDAW reports and with attendance of members at International Conferences.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

It compiles submissions from the evidence and opinions of its members at the grass roots community level which are then available for discussion and consideration at both local and parliamentary level of debate. This approach must be reflected in, and be of benefit to the welfare of the community at large.

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Individual member

Involvement with NCWNZ: Member of Christchurch Branch and corresponding member for education

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

After consultation with its membership, NCW highlights injustices or anomalies and suggests policy changes to remedy these injustices in NZ society, both at regional and national level.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Through its varied membership, with delegates from a large number of different networks, NCW provides an avenue for respectful and thoughtful but critical dialogue. Members are informed about many issues in our society and after careful consideration of all perspectives, from both left and right, NCW lodges submissions and lobbies national and local politicians to address injustices, which have come to our attention, again through our diverse membership.

For more than one hundred years, NCW has provided information to policymakers, benefiting usually the most vulnerable in our society; in my view this is a highly charitable function, resulting in more permanent solutions than food parcels and shelters.

Lia de Vocht- van Alphen

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Lorraine Sheen, Rural Women NZ.

Involvement with NCWNZ: Delegate from Rural Women, Canterbury Provincial to Christchurch branch, NCW, corresponding member of NCW Environment Committee.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

There is no other body with such a wide and diverse membership. This enables NCW to canvas the views of a far wider public than any other NZ group. There is no doubt in my mind that its work over the years has effectively brought the position of NZ women in the workforce, both from a pay equity perspective and other gender issues before the public eye.

The Christchurch Branch has been working on remits to the National Conference on a number of issues that serve women, the family and the community – for example, the treatment of women after they leave prison. This work will raise awareness, not only with Govt to whom the remits will be addressed, but also, with the delegates reporting back to their home societies after the provision of an excellent speaker, all the other societies who belong to NCW have been further educated on the lack of halfway housing, the lack of drug and alcohol programmes and the rate of recidivism among these women.

Thus the work of NCW is effective both ways, in canvassing the views of many people and advocating for them, and also in educating and making the general public more aware of points where NCW sees systems failing.

This umbrella group with its wide network is essential for the well being of NZ social standards.

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Pam King-- St.Chad's Wst. New Plymouth A.A.W. (Leader/ Representative @ Taranaki Branch NCWNZ & Waikato Diocese Social Concerns committee rep.)

Why do I believe NCWNZ serves women, the family & the community at local, national & international level?

Women have since the formation of NCWNZ in 1896 felt compelled to become watch-dogs of politicians to endeavour to ensure that the welfare of women & children is of paramount protection. These women have given their time voluntarily as they represented their member organisations, whether they be as part of their personal employment, such as teachers, nurses or business women, but many others have represented charitable groups such as women's church groups, Soroptomists, Girl Guides, Rural Women etc.

At a local level we in New Plymouth have aside from what we do for our own member organisation, endeavoured to give to groups such as providing money to purchase car seats for Plunket & more recently we gave some money for a group called START (Supporting at risk Teenagers) Money for these types of donations does not amount to enormous sums however as our branch survives on a very modest budget!! To raise money we provide lunch for invited guests, to hear a worthwhile speaker, about issues of interest such as Health, Education etc.

We also endeavour to respond to Items of interest or Action Items to assist the NCWNZ board when making their submissions.

Another important subject is that members study Remits with their member organisations, bringing the sometimes varied opinions to branch meetings so that when collated, branch delegates can attend conference, informed of our region's opinions.

As social concerns representative for Waikato/Taranaki AAW it is my responsibility to keep all AAW groups within our region informed of concerns which are referred to us from NCWNZ via the Circular, email etc.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Through the NCWNZ Board & the collation of information from all the branches supplying submissions to them regarding the many varied subjects which are discussed by our politicians, I believe it is imperative that the work of NCWNZ is able to continue to protect the rights of not only women but families also.

I trust the above is of value , however I believe that our President & the Board have already presented the Charities Commission with a very concise submission as to WHY NCWNZ should continue its work as a Charitable organisation-- WE ARE VOLUNTEERS NOT A BUSINESS.

Thanking you, Pam King.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Wairarapa Branch, National Council of Women of NZ (NCWNZ)

Involvement with NCWNZ: The Wairarapa Branch of NCWNZ was formed in 1967 following an inaugural meeting which attracted 70 women representing a variety of local and national organisations. The meeting unanimously voted to form a Wairarapa Branch and in doing so became the 42nd branch of NCWNZ an organisation that had already been in existence since 1896. The first ordinary meeting of the Wairarapa Branch was held on 2 October 1967 with 60 women representing 20 organisations. And, whilst there have been periods where attendance has not reached the original 60 the branch remains vibrant and has continued now for 43 years to receive, disseminate, debate and make not only their own but their families and their community views heard with the support of the national organisation.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ is made up of women representing a wide range of nationally and locally organised societies. With such a diversity of women and opinions tolerance is imperative and therefore remains at the heart of what NCWNZ represents.

NCWNZ and its branches throughout New Zealand have an important and continuing role to play in making sure that ALL New Zealand views and needs are represented in our future laws.

Locally: NCWNZ has been involved with a variety of local initiatives through local body planning, letter writing and lobbying the three local district councils (Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa) in a large rural area. Issues such as building, maintenance and access to public toilets, the condition of footpaths and other infrastructure. The branch has been a foundation and/or steering group member in setting up groups such as Women's Refuge, Family Planning, the Wairarapa Polytech; and has been represented over the year on groups such as Wairarapa Hospital maternity services, the Polytech Council, Women's Centre, and the Community Law Office. The branch has remained active and supportive of women candidates for local and national governance across all parties. It has hosted and facilitated local meet the candidates evenings; coordinated a successful Te Tiriti O Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi public seminar with Claudia Orange as guest speaker; and was at the forefront for many years in the fight to eliminate family violence.

Nationally: NCWNZ's monthly circulars and submissions to Parliamentary Select committees are the result of widespread debate. Issues are discussed nationally and fought for locally. The organisation is apolitical and non profit. Over the years NCWNZ has been at the forefront of local, national and international issues. Much of what was discussed and fought for, many now take for granted, such as: abolition of corporal punishment; wrapping of bread; flexible trading hours; lowering of the voting age; cleanliness of water supplies; education on recycling; and promotion of women to public office.

The collation and dissemination of wide ranging information results in feedback to policy makers often through Parliamentary Select Committees. For example in the past 18 months, submissions both written and oral numbering more than 50 have seen thousands of women and therefore their families views heard across diverse policy issues and legislation such as the Education Amendment Bill, Review of the Holidays Act 2003, Cluster Munition

(Prohibition) Bill, Income Splitting, A Focus on Victims of Crime, and Food Labelling Law and Policy Review to name but a few.

Internationally: NCWNZ is affiliated to the International Council of Women, an organisation set up in 1888 to bring together voluntary non government organisations worldwide and to represent women of all nations, races, creeds and cultural traditions. We have often exchanged visits with women of other countries, shared knowledge, offered practical help and taught tolerance.

The work of NCWNZ nationally in continuing to coordinate a process to develop an independent Shadow Report on the way government is meeting its obligations to the CEDAW Agreement (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) is a huge effort on the part of what basically remains a voluntary organisation.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Locally, members support each other and work for the betterment of all people in their community. The same is true nationally, but the benefit is for the people of the Nation. Sharing information keeps us safe and well and increases happiness through informed choice. The breadth of issues covered ensure an “across the board” range of knowledge, interest and engagement, and opinions. The diversity of membership and the fact that there is no issue that is put in the “too hard” basket is NCWNZ’s strength.

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit by promoting the moral, civil and social welfare of the community by collecting and redistributing information; and in working for the social, legal and economic development of women, men and children so that we can all live in a just and caring society of which we can all be proud.

It could be said that NCWNZ provided the “original public information website” 114 years ahead of technology. NCWNZ locally, nationally and internationally continues through its constitutional processes to truly represent, in our opinion, democracy at work.

(Sgd) Julie Huffer, President

On behalf of the Executive and members of the National Council of Women, Wairarapa Branch

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: My name is Lynette Stutz of Masterton

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been a member of the Wairarapa Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand – Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa since 1993. During that time I have had the honour to serve the branch in both a presidential and secretarial capacity; have served as a branch delegate to National Biennial Conferences on a number of occasions; and assisted on the Parliamentary Watch Committee.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ is made up of women representing a wide range of nationally and locally organised societies. With such a diversity of women and opinions tolerance is imperative and therefore remains at the heart of what NCWNZ represents.

Through the democratic principles and processes that guide NCWNZ it is, in my opinion, an organisation that reaches out to women across the wide and diverse communities which are the core of our Nation. In so doing these women are enabled to have their views and those of their partners, friends and families heard, discussed and perhaps incorporated into policy at the highest level. In my view policy which is designed to promote and enhance the wellbeing of all peoples will not be comprehensive and best served unless it includes input from those people on which it will impact whether that be local, national or international. This is a role NCWNZ has played for 114 years and it is what the organisation does best. It is not known as “the voice of reason”, nor are its views sought at the highest level of our democracy, for no good reason.

NCWNZ branches through their membership continue to play their part in the huge voluntary network which sustains and underpins our society. Much of that network is made up of non government, not for profit agencies which filled gaps in tax payer funded services and which are now contracted through government to provide those same services.

Throughout communities in New Zealand NCWNZ have an important and continuing role to play in making sure that New Zealand legislation incorporates the views of the people it is written for. Surely this is democracy in action and therefore worthy of charitable status.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit by promoting the moral, civil and social welfare of the community by collecting and redistributing information; and in voluntarily working for the social, legal and economic development of women, men and children so that we can live in a caring and equitable society of which we can all be proud.

(Sgd) Lynette Stutz

Secretary, Wairarapa Branch, NCWNZ

Name/Organisation: NCW Dunedin Branch

Involvement with NCWNZ: As part of the system of obtaining information from as many different sources as possible to enable opinion to be given to National Office.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

The representatives suggested the following list as being helpful in this regard:

- Bringing information to the general public.
- Taking information from the general public at local level to inform debate at the national and international level.
- response to issues raised at the local level at the national level.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

- Encouraging women to be better informed about the issues e.g. local and national forums for women to talk to nominated candidates for local and national elections.
- Collecting facts at a local level for use at a national level to better inform policy decisions at a national level - this enables NCW to present all the sides of any issue and they are displayed for what they are without fear or favour.
- contributions to foodbanks, collections of toiletries for women's refuge, provides a safe forum for discussion of information from and to national policy making.
- addressing domestic violence and trying to put in place something to help

The over-riding issue is that information must flow both ways for it to be effective and that is what is NCWNZ's main role.

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW)

Dr Dorothy Page, President

Dr Florence Stone, NCW representative

Involvement with NCWNZ: Since its foundation in 1921 NZFGW has been an active member of NCWNZ. Its members have always contributed to the work of NCW at Branch level throughout New Zealand, and served regularly on its Board and on its Standing Committees on special issues, especially relating to Education.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Locally

- It provides friendship, support, and the chance to meet women from other groups
- Offers training in areas such as meeting procedure and confidence-building so that women can take a larger part in the community, e.g. standing for local authorities
- Through the annual theme it gives members chance to increase knowledge in a particular area: e.g. 2009 financial literacy, 2008 living gently in the environment
- Gathers information and responses from a variety of women at grass roots level
- Through its newsletter informs members of issues of local, national and international significance
- Introduces women to the process of formulating and discussing remits for national consideration
- Introduces people of power at the local level and gives women the chance to discuss issues with them

Nationally

- NCWNZ involves itself in national affairs to advance the well-being of women in mind and without any party political bias
- Gathers information from its very varied catchment so that it can make well-grounded submissions on bills before Parliament - this is valuable as NCW can have many eyes from many groups focused on finding out the unintended consequences of a measure
- Comments publicly on issues of concern to women
- Raises the profile of women and gives them a platform to speak to all New Zealanders
- Celebrates the achievement of women
- Debates remits on topics of importance to women, sent in by branches for consideration by conference. If passed these become part of the fabric of NCW policy.
- At local and national level supports Women's Refuges with money and goods

Internationally

- Acquaints members with UN policies e.g. UNIFEM, INSTRAW
- Reflects members' opinions in NGO CEDAW report

Family

Locally

- Applies results of research to the everyday world – eg in recommendations on school opening hours.
- Promotes safe schools and after-school care

Nationally

- Promotes immunisation campaigns
- Campaign against sexualisation of children
- Supports rural women in issues relating to isolation from community services

Community

Locally

- Encourages members in active volunteer work in the community
- Looks for practical solutions to local problems - e.g. refuse, recycling
- Produces pamphlet on how to access help to stop family violence
- Active in a variety of areas - e.g. overloaded school buses

Nationally

- Organised campaign to abolish inappropriate messages on children's clothing

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefits?

- Increases the amount of reliable information available on issues important to society.
- Gives gender balance to national discourse

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Maxine van Oosten

Involvement with NCWNZ: Member Hamilton Branch

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCW serves women in NZ by being an advocate for them at every level of the community. They lobby Governments on fair policies for women and our families, they advocate for equality in every aspect of women's lives. They have championed women's issues for more than a century.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ provides public benefit by giving value to role women play in society, by recognising women's issues and by seeing how balancing these can lead to realising the potential of our whole community.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Julie Huffer

Involvement with NCWNZ: Current President NCW Wairarapa, member since 1993.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

The opportunity to contribute an opinion and to have your say in what you believe is right is available at local and national level. The promotion of the voting and election process is important. Branches are able to submit to their District annual plans, DHB, etc and to connect with local organisations.

Information and anecdotal evidence is collected from women in the community to provide a basis for submissions to be prepared by NCWNZ on issues of national interest and importance.

Information is disseminated through the Circular and then to member groups, and hence through the community through a network of women from diverse groups. These same diverse groups feed back to NCWNZ any concerns they have and these can be put forward as remits to our annual meetings at national level.

The debate on these is a robust process that allows for opinions to be voiced and a consensus decision to be arrived at. NCWNZ then seeks the ear of those who are able to work toward the outcome deemed important.

Internationally we hear the issues of the member countries and again through a democratic decision-making process, seek resolutions to improve the lives of all the women of the world, their families and their communities.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Locally, members support each other and work for the betterment of all people in their community. The same is true nationally but the benefit is for people of the Nation.

Sharing information keeps us safe and well, and increases happiness through informed choice. The breadth of issues covered ensure an across the board range of knowledge, interest and engagement, and opinions. There is no issue that is put in the 'too hard' basket.

The diversity of membership is an enormous strength. We are not directly aligned to any one corporate, religious, political, secular or interest group, but may be involved in all these at once through our membership. NCWNZ works quietly and consistently, and rarely seeks kudos for its efforts. Many hours of donated time (a diminishing commodity in this 21st century) are spent by NZ women in this work for the good of the public at large.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Christine Low

Involvement with NCWNZ: Former National President, Life Member of Christchurch Branch.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ via research and education has served women and their families for over 114years.

No issue is discussed or debated with the membership until it has had the background researched. This research forms part of the education of the membership on any issue. NCWNZ has a long established reputation of informed comment. This reputation has been built on the foundation of research, education and discussion. Without this foundation no comment can be truly representative of the organisation.

NCWNZ provides a forum for the community, in the main women, to come together, research and discuss an issue that is important to them. This forum provides an important service to the community. Through the research and education, members are better informed and able to provide input to their own communities which is of benefit to all. Informed communities make for a better civil society.

The experience NCWNZ has collected over the years of educating women on topical issues has been shared with other national and international organisations.

NCWNZ facilitates every four years, discussion and research towards a NGO Alternative Report to the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW). This is an opportunity for women to contribute to a global forum on women. NZ is held up as an example of what can be achieved in a society where the women are educated and have a forum that ensures that their views are taken into account when addressing discrimination.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Definition of public benefit in use: includes provision for a community's social, economic and cultural well being, and health and safety.

Therefore NCWNZ improves the mental ability and social well being of the membership who in turn share their knowledge with others in the community. An educated and informed society is the public benefit.

An analogy that may fit is that NCWNZ is the fence at the top of the cliff so that ambulances are not required at the bottom.

Date: 8 July 2010

Name: Mary McIntyre, Matamata Branch NCWNZ, Branch President

NCWNZ serves women, the family and the community at local, national and international level by:

- gathering information,
- sounding out opinions at individual and local level,
- collating opinions so that a representative expression of opinion can be forwarded to the appropriate destination, thereby working for the betterment of women, children, families and the community, the nation and ultimately responsible for influencing decision making at international level.
- disseminating information through branches to affiliated organisations therefore reaching the widest possible audience
- covering all issues vital to the well-being of women and their families

It is thanks to NCWNZ that women throughout the nation, in both urban and even the most remote rural regions, are made aware of issues affecting them.

Through NCWNZ they have a voice that would otherwise not be heard

As one of the few rural branches, we in Matamata appreciate the opportunities that NCWNZ provides to bring to the notice of policy makers the specific needs of people who live at a distance from main centres.

Because of the structure of our organisation with delegates, associated members (past delegates who have a fund of experience), as well as individual members, the opinions are representative of a vast range of individuals and groups; in this respect NCWNZ is unlike single purpose organisations where there could be seen to be biased opinion.

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit in many ways and these are encapsulated in the Family Charter which promotes:

- respect for each other's personal dignity
- ensuring the provision of proper nourishment and warmth
- encouraging and comforting one another
- settling arguments without aggression
- finding help when problems occur
- sharing responsibility
- rejoicing in our environment
- developing a sense of pride in our obligations as citizens

In working towards these goals and encouraging all families to adopt the charter as their own, NCWNZ is undoubtedly working to provide for the public good. In working towards the well-being of all New Zealanders NCWNZ is:

- helping people to be in control of their lives,
- to make a positive contribution to society
- to work together for the betterment of our environment

NCWNZ serves a unique and valuable purpose in our society in providing for public good

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Judith Sutherland, Individual Member, Christchurch Branch, NCWNZ

Involvement with NCWNZ: My involvement with NCWNZ commenced in 2000. I joined this Charitable Institution as a volunteer to assist as Branch Secretary. I had been seeking an organisation that was constitutionally apolitical; that worked to eliminate discrimination against women, elimination of poverty and assisted the wider community. I discovered that NCW covered all these areas. Later, when Individual Membership became available I was accepted as a member and I am now proud to say I am the current President of the Christchurch Branch.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ is an umbrella organisation with an outreach to many thousands of NZ Women.

Education:

NCWNZ's primary tool is education. At the Branch level discussion forms an integral part of the meeting. The topic range is extensive. There are issues raised by the Convenors of the eleven standing committees or Action Items produced by National Office in order to canvass Branch opinions. Complex issues require expert knowledge and in this regard we engage an expert, often from Canterbury University. Some examples:

- Stephen Phillips - CEO of Age Concern
- Dr Jean Drage – University of Canterbury, re proposed changes to the electoral system with the repealing of the electoral Finance Reform Act 2007.
- Dr Helen Gibson – re research into the NZ Liquor Laws.
- Dr Annabel Taylor - re the Crisis in Women's Prisons and with women prisoners in transition.

Branch Linkage:

The linkage of the branches throughout New Zealand via the National Office is a major strength of, and asset to, the organisation. The National Office's ability to coordinate information, research and organise submissions, present at local and national government level is immense.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Training Programmes: Christchurch Branch

Hosting the Human Rights Commission: "Conversations About Work".

CEDAW Meetings:

Facilitated the CEDAW consultation meetings in Christchurch as part of the information sharing for the wider NGO's CEDAW report.

Electoral Training Day:

Run in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission to assist women seeking local body election.

Cultural Literacy: A training day to improve membership/others understanding of diversity in order to build harmony in the community and to encourage other ethnic groups to join NCW.

Other Branch Activities:

- Letter to The Press, re Section 59 Crimes Act (Published July 2009)
- Letter to the NZEI re School Support Staff pay negotiations
- Letter to The Press re closure of the 198 Youth Health Centre (published March 2010)
- Action Items - Branch: Electoral Finance Reform, Road Strategy report, Reform of N Z Liquor Laws Consultation, Special Education Reform, Mining on Conservation Land, N.Z. Lotteries Commission.

Submissions:

- Justice Commission re NZ Liquor Laws – (WFC) and individual members.
- Christchurch City Council – re Montgomery Spur.
- ECan Draft Plan – Democracy and water.

Remits:

The many Remits that have been worked through this year at Branch level to improve, health, safety, and security for women and the wider community: These remits are submitted to NCW National office for consideration at Conference. Although not all the Remits were selected there was considerable education involved in this process and some will be resubmitted.

i) “That NCWZN request the Government to provide appropriate social and medical accommodation for people under 65 years of age, with a disability, needing rest home grade care.”

(ii) “That NCWZN requests the Government to take urgent action to increase child health spending by providing 24 hours, 7 days per week free access to all healthcare services for every child in New Zealand up to the age of 18 years.”

(iii) Cycle Pods

“That NCWZN urge the Government to adopt measures to ensure trolleys attached to cycles for the purpose of carrying children be confined to non-motorised cycle ways not amongst motorised traffic.

(iv) Raising the age to purchase alcohol

1. “That NCWZN supports the reduction of the availability by sale and purchase of alcohol.”

2. “That NCWZN supports the raising of the minimum age for purchasing alcohol from any licensed premises to 20 years of age.”

(v) Women prisoners’ transition from prison

“That NCWZN urges Government to develop policies and procedures that address the specific needs of women prisoners in transition to the community. These policies and procedures should be both gender equitable and address the transfer of resources into the community.”

Board Membership:

COSS

A representative from NCW serves as the women's sector representative on the Board of Council of Social Services. There is a mutual exchange of information which facilitates NCW's knowledge of community social needs and has enabled NCW to support COSS in its legal bid to address unjust rent increases in relation to CCC social housing.

Kate Sheppard Memorial Trust:

NCW provides representation to the Kate Sheppard Memorial Trust. It is part of the Trust's function to administer funding for women who are involved in Research projects and in this regard NCW has input into this educative work.

The Canterbury Branch of the United Nations:

NCW provides representation on this organisation which in turn facilitates the exchange of information, particularly regarding international affairs.

International:

At the International level NCW connects with other Women's Councils throughout the world and the National Office fosters such connections, through information sharing, education and public forums. The production of the monthly Circular by National Office enables the wide membership to engage in this process.

Conclusion:

It would be a travesty if NCWNZ became deregistered. Deregistration would considerably hinder the vast work undertaken in areas of research, education and support for women, families and the wider community. To do so would remove or diminish the democratic voice of the thousands of women who are part of NCWNZ outreach.

Date: 8 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Eunice Algar, Matamata NCW

Involvement with NCWNZ: 42 years - Life member, President, Education standing committee

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCW serves this community by reporting the views of our small town/rural community to Govt the effects any proposed legislation would have on a rural community in comparison with the effects such legislation would have on cities where there are differing services and facilities. E.g. Matamata does not have a public hospital and people have to travel 60 ks to such services. Likewise with Govt offices there is no public transport facilities between Hamilton and Matamata All these differences make people in our area needing to be much more self reliant and this is fine if they have the finances to be so independent.

These are the ways Matamata NCW serves its community by carefully considering proposed legislation or services made available and making representation to any appropriate authority. We also make representation where a lack is noticed and work on it.

Because there are members from various groups matters are well discussed and any representations are moderated to give a balanced view of any issue.

These views are of course fed through NCWNZ as required by our constitution.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: UNIFEM National Committee for New Zealand

Involvement with NCWNZ: Affiliated member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ provides an opportunity for women's voluntary organisations to meet together to share views and experiences. They learn from the contact and take the knowledge back to improve the management and activities of their own organisation.

NCWNZ's long history of involvement with women's issues and its working relationship with Parliament has given it a unique position in NZ.

NCWNZ coordinates a four yearly alternative report on compliance with the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, inviting input from women throughout the country. This is a service that no other organisation could provide.

It is the only organisation in this field in New Zealand with the capacity to provide resources and expertise on women's issues to organisations nationwide.

NCWNZ distributes information through their Circular about the activities and policies of government and non-government organisations, nationally and internationally.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Through the empowerment of women as described above.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Halina Kania of 131 Pownall Street, Masterton.

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been a member of the Wairarapa Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) since 1984 and have represented the Masterton Branch of the Catholic Women's League of New Zealand (CWLNZ). I have held office as the local NCWNZ Branch President, Treasurer and now as a Branch Life Member.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

In my opinion NCWNZ and its branches throughout New Zealand have an important role to play in making sure that ALL New Zealand views and needs are represented in our future laws.

NCWNZ's monthly circulars and submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees are the result of widespread debate. Issues are discussed nationally and fought for locally. The organisation is apolitical and non profit. Over the years we have been at the forefront of local, national and international issues. Much of what was discussed and fought for, many now take for granted, such as: abolition of corporal punishment; wrapping of bread; flexible trading hours; lowering of the voting age; cleanliness of water supplies; education on recycling; and promotion of women to public office.

NCWNZ is affiliated to the International Council of Women, an organisation set up in 1888 to bring together voluntary non government organisations worldwide and to represent women of all nations, races, creeds and cultural traditions. We have often exchanged visits with women of other countries, shared knowledge, offered practical help and taught tolerance.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit by promoting the moral, civil and social welfare of the community by collecting and redistributing information; and in working for the social, legal and economic development of women, men and children so that we can all live in a just and caring society of which we can all be proud.

(Sgd) Halina Kania

Date: 7th July 2010

Name/Organisation: My name is Gabriel Rolls of 24 Rugby Street, Masterton .

Involvement with NCWNZ: I am currently a delegate member of the Wairarapa Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) representing the Masterton Branch of the Catholic Women's League of New Zealand (CWLNZ).

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Through receipt of NCWNZ monthly circulars the CWLNZ meetings are able to discuss and give "feed back" on various circular items, remits, submissions and information. This "feed back" is presented to the Wairarapa Branch NCWNZ monthly meeting. In this way our local CWLNZ individual and collective views are made known and in turn submitted to NCWNZ National Office and incorporated into submissions. As CWLNZ members provide voluntary assistance to organisations such as Red Cross, the Cancer Society, Asthma and Arthritis Foundations, and St. Vincent de Paul the views of many women and their families are enabled and promoted by NCWNZ processes to be heard in the policy making arena.

NCWNZ disseminates and collates information inclusive of family, community, local body, national and international issues through its branches and delegate membership and could, in fact, through its representation of many women's organisations be called the original "information website", a website which has now been in existence for 114 years. In this way representatives from organisations such as the one I represent (CWLNZ) and others including the NZ Nurses Organisation, Rural Women NZ, Family Planning Association, Anglican Women, Presbyterian Women, and SPELD continue to have their collective voices heard on issues such as education, infrastructure, alcohol consumption/purchase and climate change.

NCWNZ is affiliated to the International Council of Women which brings together voluntary non government organisations worldwide representing women of all nations, races, creeds and cultural traditions.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit by strengthening and promoting a channel through which the pursuit of a just and caring society for themselves and their families, women from all walks of life can ensure their views are heard.

(Sgd) Gabriel Rolls

Date: 7th July 2010

Name/Organisation: My name is Dorothy Moss of 107 Dixon Street, Masterton.

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been a member of the Wairarapa Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) for many years, initially as a representative of Soroptomists NZ and latterly as an associate member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

By enabling input from so many women's groups both local and national, ie: Catholic Women's League NZ, Association of Anglican Women, Association of Presbyterian Women; Rural Women NZ, health carers such as the NZ Nursing Association and many others. In this way the needs of women and their families become known both locally and nationally.

At a local level the Wairarapa Branch of NCWNZ have, in many instances, played a pivotal role in steering groups and at the foundation level of such organisations as Women's Refuge and NZ Family Planning. Rural health care has featured strongly and the branch has in the past driven discussion and debate on issues such as the lack of facilities relating to mammography screening, rehabilitation and aged care services. Wairarapa Branch continue their involvement locally in a variety of ways providing blankets, clothing, essential toiletries and children's toys to agencies such as Women's Refuge.

NCWNZ's monthly circulars and submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees are the result of widespread debate. Issues are discussed nationally and fought for locally. The organisation is apolitical and non profit.¹

NCWNZ nationally is affiliated to the International Council of Women a body representing many women's apolitical, non profit organisations worldwide. I recall an important achievement some years ago when not only our local branch but others throughout New Zealand contributed monies to see a well dug in a South African village so that the women did not have to carry their water large distances each day. A senior NCWNZ representative was able to be present at the commissioning of the well.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ provides public benefit nationally by coordinating a process to develop an independent Shadow Report on the way government is meeting its obligations to the CEDAW Agreement (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women); and locally by becoming involved in the coordination of community groups and individuals to submit their independent Shadow Reports to the national body.

(Sgd) Dorothy Moss

¹ Kate Sheppard a founder and stalwart of NCWNZ appears on the NZ \$10.00 note.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: My name is Trix Bryant of 4 Colville Street, Masterton.

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been a Rural Women NZ delegate to the Wairarapa Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) since the 1980s.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ is involved in many ways supporting women and therefore their families in our local and wider community by liaising through its affiliate membership at national and international levels.

NCWNZ's monthly circulars and submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees are the result of widespread debate. Issues are discussed nationally and fought for locally. The organisation is apolitical and non profit.

NCWNZ is a large group of women representative of many organisations who give countless hours of voluntary time to their wider communities and groups of interest across New Zealand.

Local work includes donation of toilet bags for use in emergencies. The bags are made and packed by branch members and given to maternity and health/mental health hospital wards and through Women's Refuge to women and children affected by family violence.

Working towards gender equality in local and national elections by holding social events and seminars to meet with, and promote women candidates, across the political spectrum.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit through the collection and dissemination of information often resulting in submissions to Parliamentary select committees (written and oral) which have been listened to and read as a voice of reason in the "corridors of power" for more than a century.

(Sgd) Trix Bryant

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand (ALRANZ)

Involvement with NCWNZ: NCW Christchurch Branch Representatives for ALRANZ

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Being members of NCW in Christchurch, we are aware that locally our membership represents a wide and disparate group of organisations with the common goal of wanting to benefit women and their families and the wider community. Monthly meetings provide an informative and educative forum with much debate amongst members on topical issues as they relate and impact on women. This allows a conduit, an information flow, to and from the “grass roots” so to speak, enabling a very democratic and broad consultative process, all done on a voluntary basis.

Collation of such opinion at a national level ensures the “grass roots” do have a voice and get heard, that representation and advocacy occur, particularly on public issues that can impact on women’s lives and families throughout New Zealand. The monthly newsletter, distributed nationally provides excellent information on local, national and international trends and events. NCW is also able to respond to issues affecting women internationally, e.g. contributing to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCW has been in existence since 1896, working to improve the lot of NZ women by education and raising awareness. Strong educated women make healthy families, and strong concerned communities. It is well recognized that women are the ones to “do” family and the ones who contribute many voluntary hours of community work. By supporting women and seeking to better their lives and those of their families, NCW is most surly providing the ultimate in public benefit.

Date: 6 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Myra Harpham

Involvement with NCWNZ: More than 40years;

Currently individual member; Represented LHNZFGW; Member of Associates and represented Associates; Sometime member of three standing committees – women’s affairs, economic and consumer; represented NCWNZ on numerous Government committees dealing with electricity and gas matters and on Standards Committees dealing with similar matters.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Main outcome of our activities from my 40 year perspective:

Informed comment, representative of a wide range of women, on issues that impact on women and families at local, national and international levels

This is achieved by:

Education, information and opportunities for skills development provided to members to enable them to discuss issues and reach an informed opinion

Enabling these views to be communicated to Government, other bodies and the public either by submissions, press releases and other means such as representing NCWNZ’s collective views on a variety of committees and statutory bodies.

Fund raising to meet the costs of such activities for an organisation, which represents women as individuals and in NGOs who could not readily fund such activities from their own pockets

Note that without participation in the democratic process by NGOs participation would become biased towards the views of better funded bodies such as the Law Society, the Round Table, the Medical Association, Maori Tribes and Corporates etc

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

I would argue that any group like NCWNZ that encourages and enables its members to take part in the democratic process is providing public benefit. The positive value of participating in the democratic process was not even recognised as existing in Elizabethan times. It has probably not been tested in the Courts yet.

However it seems to me to be self-evident since these days Government provides opportunities and even requests participation in discussion and law making at times. Participating has become valued in our society. If it is not regarded as of public benefit then the whole system lacks integrity and is fraudulent.

In addition, the fact that NCWNZ has a contract with MSD to ensure participation at a useful level confirms there is a public benefit from its work. For what other reason would the MSD pay NCWNZ from public funds? The argument that the Charities Commission should be having is not with NCWNZ but with Government itself. The need to redefine the terms “charity” and “public benefit” are urgent.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa Section (WILPF)

Involvement with NCWNZ: WILPF has been involved with the National Council of Women since 1918. Once WILPF had 3 branches we became a Nationally Organised Society with WILPF delegates attending three branches of NCWNZ for many years.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

WILPF believes that NCWNZ plays a vital role in keeping women informed on issues that affect the well-being of them and their families on all levels-local, national and international.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

As far as WILPF is concerned NCWNZ has been a strong supporter of peace, justice and equality issues which we believe benefits all of society.

The public benefits it provides are education of women and indeed all of society in human rights, the rights of all to health, education, care and protection of children and the right to equality at work and in society.

NCWNZ provides the government with information about issues which affect women and families and raises issues that are of concern by informing members and by media releases to the public.

The NCWNZ Book of Resolutions holds a wealth of material reflecting the concerns of its members, from all walks of life about a wide range of issues such as justice, law reform, housing, education, environment, civic affairs, media, migration, status of women.

Making submissions to government select committees on bills before Parliament is a public benefit as NCWNZ does not have a political bias, and all its members are able to contribute their views.

Name/Organisation: Elizabeth Lee/Association of Anglican Women

Involvement with NCWNZ: Currently member of Wellington Branch of NCWNZ; previously Convenor of Environment Standing Committee

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

By keeping watch on what is going on in the community and in families, individual members can often bring to the notice of the wider organisation situations that are troubling or undesirable, and the organisation can then undertake research, formally or informally, to find out how wide the problem is, and then advise the relevant government department or authority, possibly with recommendations as to what can be done to put things right.

Internationally, NCWNZ participates in the CEDAW process, and is able to contribute to the international findings on the social, economic, legal and cultural status of women.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

By undertaking research, by means of sending out questionnaires to all the member groups and branch groups, or through Action Items in the monthly Circular, the organisation can gather information and opinion on many social and economic issues, to use in submissions to select committees etc. The select committees can then use the contents of the submissions when they report back to the government. NCWNZ through this process has helped form government policy, which we hope will be beneficial to the public.

Name of organisation: New Zealand Nurses' Organisation (NZNO). The NZNO is NZ's largest professional association and registered union for women. It represents over 45,000 nurses, midwives and other health care workers.

Involvement with NCWNZ: NZNO has had representation on regional branches of NCW for many decades and have a national representative.

NZNO and NCWNZ share information between the two organisations including journals, newsletters, submissions and media releases.

NZNO and NCWNZ share health related information and work collaboratively towards improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders.

How does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NZNO's submission relates primarily to the impact of NCWNZ on the health status of New Zealanders although the aims of the two organisations in reducing the gender pay gap are congruent also.

NCWNZ is the sole organisation that brings together multiple organisations whose primary concerns are that of the wellbeing of women and families. It is a melting pot where input from across a wide range of interests is brought to bear on issues impacting on women and families. The wise and considered contribution made by NCWNZ cannot be underestimated. It is effective in influencing the government's policy and legislation leading to a better society for New Zealand. No other organisation in the view of NZNO does this as effectively and any jeopardy to NCWNZ as an organisation will impact negatively on the quality of government policy decisions.

In particular, the Health Committee of NCWNZ has been a significant force over many decades in the development of sound health policy which has benefited New Zealanders. Also, the NCWNZ has provided valuable input on policy which has impacted on the social, cultural, economic and educational determinants of health.

The NCWNZ is also a vehicle for democratic engagement in social policy development by significant numbers who would otherwise become the silent majority. This cannot be overstated. It brings together women of all political persuasions and from all walks of life. New Zealand is a democratic society. NCWNZ is a crucial organisation for women to engage in the political process and have their voice heard. The diversity of membership ensures that all aspects of matters are aired and that considered, pragmatic and workable approaches to issues impacting on women and their families are proposed.

Susanne Trim, Professional Services Manager, New Zealand Nurses' Organisation

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Barbara Thomson / Wairarapa Branch

Involvement with NCWNZ: Member since 1980, represented Association of Presbyterian Women 1980-1988, associate 1989-2000, member 2001- 2010 currently represent Methodist Women's Fellowship from my union parish.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

At local level NCW brings together representatives of many community organisations, responds to policy proposals from government agencies, suggests and encourages initiatives that will benefit women and families.

At a national level NCW has developed resolutions that express principles likely to improve the situation of women and the health of society.

As individuals members support ideas and causes and encourage one another initiating and strengthening local efforts.

We also encourage women to take office in local bodies and show leadership. NCW has served as a training ground for many women in leadership roles.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

As an unaligned but politically astute organisation with a wide range of grassroots members, NCW will make thoughtful comments on official proposals improving the quality of the policy under debate.

NCW is a channel for communication from people otherwise voiceless. For example children, parents, and the elderly. To make sure they are not disadvantaged.

NCW improves the calibre of leadership in public bodies.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Margaret Elizabeth (Peggy) Kelly, Individual Member, Christchurch Branch NCWNZ.

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been involve in NCWNZ since 1981, first as a Delegate from the Family Planning Association, then as a Delegate from the Green Party and latterly as an Individual Member. For many years I coordinated the Environment sub-committee and was recycled on to the Branch Committee from time to time serving for a year as President 2006 – 2007. A highlight for me was the Centenary Conference in Christchurch 14 years ago; that, together with the publication of “100 Years of Resolutions” put the extent and breadth of NCWNZ’s work in focus for me. It made me feel privileged to be part of a forward thinking movement with a solid history of achievements.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

1. Integration:

As a mid-70s immigrant it was, to a great extent, through NCWNZ that I learned how to act and think as a New Zealander. I know that this happened because when I made my biennial visits to Ireland I was soon aware that I had picked up another world view which was quickly recognised by my family. Recently my brother remarked to me that my grasp of issues was “ahead” of theirs (the British norm). Yet within NCWNZ my thinking is only average.

2. Education:

Listening to a wide range of issues being debated at Branch meetings and at the NCWNZ Conference, especially during the 80s and 90s – issues such as Human Reproductive Technologies, Prostitution Law Reform, Sustainable Development (population, consumption and dirty technology) the Resource Management Act – helped to bring me up to speed with matters of the day important to everyone – women, families, community and parliament. I admired how NCW NZ worked by inviting Delegates to express in a safe environment (both at Branch level and at Conference) the opinions and beliefs of their very diverse member-organisations. This format is followed to this day and is in my opinion an invaluable means of transferring experience and information from a minority into a wider forum for discussion. This is how many of the NCWNZ remits to Conference come into being.

3. Working together and making wider connections:

It was through this process of sharing information (both local and national) that I was, over the years introduced to “Gender analyses”, “Water issues”, “Energy conservation” and the like. People talk to NCWNZ as Guest Speakers – often introduced by an academic, rural or conservation-minded Delegate. I see this as the building of “social capital” that is so much talked about as being useful/valuable these days.

One of the big issues we tackled through the Christchurch Branch and with the facilitation of our National Office was a national survey through all Branches of attitudes to the loss of peri-urban versatile soils. This survey showed widespread concern about our inability to conserve these precious soils though the RMA. These findings were gifted to the Commissioner for the Environment at the time – Dr Morgan Williams.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

4. I shall not reiterate all the well-known work NCW NZ undertakes in consulting its Delegates, collating data, writing submissions on Bills before the house and reporting back to Branches. I shall just say that in the process general public awareness of a Bill is raised and that can only be a good thing for New Zealand democracy.
5. Rather, I shall talk briefly about the way NCWNZ sometimes addresses topical controversial issues – which I admire very much. I shall take but two examples:
6. The Virgin in the Condom (Te Papa): this was an image that greatly polarised NCW Delegates. Here in Christchurch, the Branch committee immediately contacted the educator at the municipal art gallery and asked if she could run a post-Picasso course for our Delegates, member-organisations and any of the general public who would like to attend. This she did to great effect. People didn't necessarily change their minds about what they considered "good art" but it put the offending piece in its place –ie in a context.
7. Hosting an art exhibition celebrating the rural Port Hills: this was another example of the Christchurch Branch facilitating very public discussion of a controversial issue – the rezoning of a landscape of national importance for housing. We as Delegates were proud to knit-in our member organisations to host a huge exhibition of paintings, photographs and poems "Celebrating the Rural Port Hills as glimpsed from urban places". Delegates of every political persuasion supported this week-long event which encouraged new art to be created and people to rejoice in an aspect of their city that they loved. Many artists, (some well-known national figures) otherwise unattached to NCWNZ remember that exhibition with pleasure. That the landscape was saved via the Environment Court was a bonus: it remains as a Landscape of National Importance.
8. Service to outside bodies: I have been involved with NCWNZ for almost 30 years. During that time I have listened to hundreds of reports from Delegates and Members who have served on boards and executive committees of other organisations as Delegates from NCWNZ. The skills and knowledge acquired through NCWNZ is seen by these organisations as helpful and enriching.
9. To me, it is beyond belief that the Charities Commission would seek in any way to curtail, hinder and not facilitate the community building, family strengthening, international awareness-raising work of a democratic, useful, home-grown organisation such as the National Council of Women NZ.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Lesley Soper

Involvement with NCWNZ: Individual member.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ has been at the forefront of every positive change for women in NZ for more than 100 years. The organisation is acknowledged locally, nationwide, and internationally as being the most organised and credible voice on women's issues, and has taken a proactive stance in speaking out and advocating for 51% of the population on a range of issues ranging from education and consumer rights to economic concerns and anti-violence and anti-exploitation issues. It is a true umbrella organisation, encompassing a wide range of views and working to present a well-researched overall view in the interests of the public good.

NCWNZ is known to abide by strong and democratic principles which support women, the family, and the community as a whole. It is an organisation not afraid to take a stand for the public good; and not intimidated by opposition to its principles.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Public benefit is provided by the unique ability of NCWNZ as an umbrella organisation to research, network, consult and communicate a strong and articulate position on the widest range of policy and issues which affect women, their families and their communities. The views of NCWNZ are seen to carry weight because the organisation has the ability to have encompassed such a wide range of individuals and other organizations before expressing a collective view. NCWNZ has often been a voice of reason on issues because it speaks for such large numbers. It also plays a role because of its weight of numbers and breadth of consultation in drawing attention to issues and anomalies in a way which can bring results before more harm is done, and therefore deliver public benefits in terms of social and financial costs saved.

Many advances for women in NZ in the last century and more would simply not have happened, or would have been much delayed, if not for the work and advocacy of NCWNZ.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Queenie Ballance, Individual member for Nelson, previously representative member for Federation of University Women (as it then was) in Auckland

Involvement with NCWNZ: Became a member of Auckland Branch c.1984, moved to Nelson 2000 and joined Nelson Branch in 2001. Convened committee in Auckland on Auckland issues 1988 (approx) to 92, then held position of Convener of Environment Standing Committee 92—2000. Was on Auckland exec and was president for two years. Am currently Nelson Branch secretary and co-convener of Local issues committee.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

I have continued my involvement with NCWNZ because of its role in ensuring women's views are heard especially when there are changes to legislation and in the public consultation process. Also because of its role in education and encouragement of women, as well as its role in raising awareness, linking women's organisation and its information sharing. I stay because it is a non-political group who responds to the issue, not to the politics of the issue.

Therefore I am sure NCWNZ serves women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

By researching areas of concern, by educating women, by sharing information and submitting on local and national issues to work towards improving the quality of life for women, families and society

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Jennifer Coote

Involvement with NCWNZ: Member of an affiliated organisation, NZ FGW

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

IT gathers information and opinion across a broad range of its member organisations on issues affecting women, children, families, the community and the national and international ramifications of these. Its also conducts in depth research on specific aspects, - such alcohol use.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ is prime example of civil society in action for the benefit of society and especially those who often lack "Voice" in society. For over a century it has represented the interests of its wide range of constituent members and organisations on aspects of social, economic, environmental, developmental and cultural importance, and without specific political association. Without such civil society action, Charitable organisations can operate blindly with a narrow focus and in ways which can be counterproductive or at cross purposes. This input from NCWNZ serves government also in formulating policies which are more closely harmonised with public opinion.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Elizabeth Cruickshank

Involvement with NCWNZ: Member for 26 years. I have, in the past, held office as Southland Branch President, Southland Branch Treasurer, Convener Employment Standing Committee NCWNZ, delegate to NCWNZ National Conferences and National Executive on several occasions, Member International Council of Women and attended two General Assemblies in Perth and Kiev, served one term as Adviser in Employment to ICW. Currently I am immediate past treasurer of Southland Branch, and am an individual member, having previously been delegate for Invercargill Parents' Centre

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

At local level, by providing a unified voice for a wide range of women's groups advocating locally and nationally on issues of concern. Recent issues have been to support a local proposal to provide a school for young unmarried mothers and their babies, to meet with Education Minister Anne Tolley seeking to reinstate ACE funding for adult education, and supporting Greypower in opposing cuts to Homecare Services for the elderly and infirm.

At National Level, the Southland Branch successfully mooted the outlawing of sexist advertising on children's clothing. This was taken up by our organisation at National and International level. NCWNZ represents a diverse range of member organisations and after canvassing members, it responds to proposed changes in legislation, giving evidence at Select Committees and liaising with many relevant Government Departments and NOS.

Internationally, NCWNZ has strong representation at International Council of Women which in turn has representation at United Nations. NCWNZ has a brief to spearhead the nongovernmental report CEDAW to the UN, and NCWNZ was instrumental in setting up the Asia-Pacific Regional Council of ICW-CIF to encourage women from Asia and the Pacific to participate internationally and to help further their regional issues. Traditionally NCWNZ has donated funding to assist women representatives of some of these countries to attend our National Conferences while our own member organisations pay full fees to attend.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

We have very wide penetration into NZ homes and families, and have a very close association with all our member organisations by the nature of our "Umbrella" structure.

We have an honourable and respected reputation for advocating for women, children and the needy in our society, and we date back over 100 years to our founder, suffragist Kate Sheppard. She would, I am sure, be horrified to think that our Charities status should be questioned by the current Government.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Soroptimist International of Wellington

Involvement with NCWNZ: Organisation member of Wellington Branch NCW

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

While focusing on improving things for women and children NCW very much have improving things for whole family in their sights.

They are well-known and respected for the reasoned arguments they produce, causes they champion - whether popular or not and their genuine care for everyone.

Very important role internationally

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The work carried out by all the member organisations reaches far and wide throughout New Zealand.

Together under the NCW umbrella our organisations try and improve things in just about every area you can think of with the aim of improving things for all.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Valerie Bailey, Federation of Graduate Women

Involvement with NCWNZ: Delegate to the Christchurch Branch of NCWNZ from the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

At the local level, at which I am involved, it serves women by providing a forum for discussion of issues affecting women in the area, and a means for the initiation of action where necessary.

NCWNZ, as the national body, is a voice for different regional concerns and for the issues that affect women and families nationally. It also ensures that any submissions or public statements are well thought through and in line with policy developed over years with input from the entire membership.

As a member of an international body, its focus is at times even wider. The NCWNZ had high standing in this body from its beginning, because of New Zealand's history of granting the vote to women earlier than most other countries.

One of its strengths is that it incorporates representatives from many different women's organisations involving a wide range of interests and viewpoints.

It serves women as a representative body to which perceived injustices can be taken, a body with members with the ability and knowledge to initiate action where necessary.

Families come within the range of concerns of NCWNZ. Any improvement in the conditions for women improves conditions also for the family. Families of all shapes and sizes are the building blocks of the community, and hence their wellbeing contributes to the well being of the community.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

As expressed in the last paragraph, the work of the NCWNZ contributes to the well being of women, families and community and hence is of public benefit.

The above is my understanding as a relatively new member of the Christchurch branch of the NCWNZ. I am sure those with a longer history would be able to provide more in the way of concrete examples.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand (ALRANZ)

Involvement with NCWNZ: Nationally Organised Society member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Through monitoring public issues concerned with women, families and the wider community and commenting on these where appropriate. There is reliance on consultation and feedback from the membership to provide an informed opinion.

There is a line between advocacy and political interference which NCWNZ respects.

Internationally NCWNZ has contributed to global issues such as the predominant role in collating New Zealand information on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Through educating the membership via branch meetings, newsletter, media releases, conferences and policy meetings so that each individual organisation in turn can act upon the information for the benefit of their own membership. In this way the influence of NCWNZ is far reaching and democratic.

It is important that NCWNZ act within the law and seek legal opinion on whether the law should be challenged.

Margaret Sparrow

National President ALRANZ

Date: 7 June 2010

Name/Organisation: Council National of Women - Matamata

Involvement with NCWNZ: Delegate for Catholic Women's League NZ

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

As delegate I am required to pursue Action Items from head Quarters for the women in the Parish of Holy Angels Matamata

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Because it invokes discussion, raises awareness of all people to the problems in today's Society

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: The New Zealand Federation of Women's Institutes (Inc)

Involvement with NCWNZ: As a member we are a nationally organised society.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ has a formidable capacity to provide leadership in the area of ensuring women are empowered to take matters up in their communities where there is injustice or inequality.

They have excellent communication lines which are used to inform member organisations such as ours with over 7,000 women who are members, of matters pertaining to the development of government policies be they positive or negative for women. They also have a successful system of feedback from all member organisations so every member has a voice when they wish to be heard.

The quality of networking between the Council and the members is extraordinary so that all our members can benefit from their investigations and submissions.

From reports received it is clear that the NCWNZ has led the world in some of the discussions at the UN in the area of CEDAW. Discrimination in most forms is negative and to have NCWNZ uphold the view of women to eliminate this is of benefit to the whole community. Their work in this area is still continuing and our expectations are that outcomes will benefit the public of New Zealand.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

When there is benefit to over half the population of New Zealand there is benefit to the public. Women being the primary care givers and mainly responsible for keeping families safe together, must have opportunities for them to excel at what they do best. NCWNZ can make a positive contribution to the public perception of how to overcome inequality and how to recognise opportunities and pitfalls within the policies and procedures of large organisations which are set up to ensure New Zealand is a great country to live in.

All members of the public benefit from the work that NCWNZ does through their role of educating women on topical issues; researching the needs of women and families and collecting and distributing information.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Matamata Union Parish Women's Fellowship and Matamata Branch of National Council of Women

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been a delegate and Standing Committee member from Matamata Plunket Society from 1972 – 1980'

Have been delegate from Matamata Union Parish Women's Fellowship from 2003 and took office as Matamata Branch of NCW President for the last 5 years.

Have attended NCW National Conference and National Executive meetings.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Beginning with our founders, Kate Shepherd and the suffragists, women, children and families have benefited by women being able to vote, by strengthening the family by providing giving women the opportunity to seek to solve issues facing society in New Zealand.

At local level, the Branch is able to focus on areas which are relevant to their area - rural issues, for instance and not only seek help to solve them locally but nationally by bringing the issues to National Office. Many of the issues involve basic human rights.

At National level they can be taken to Conference as remits and passed as policy or they are used as reference for submissions to Government select Committees. The latter have often expressed, via National Office, to us the greater depth of knowledge that they gain from these action items.

At International level , our delegates work together with many delegates to continue the social, legal and economic status of all people through discussion, contact with international agencies, through presentations to United Nations and other world organisations.

It is an impossible task to give a full account of the inestimable value of all the benefits that have been assured through the work of the National Council of Women – the list would be never ending.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Southland Community Law Centre

Involvement with NCWNZ: We work with NCWNZ representatives on submission documents relating to the advancement of human rights, family rights and in general the betterment of those that live in NZ.

In your opinion how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

They provide a collective voice on behalf of community members. Also have involvement with international submissions on the rights of women and children.

How does NCWNZ provide public benefit?

By providing a collective and effective non-political voice for members of the community who are often unable to comment individually on aspects of government services and proposed services/legislation that do not currently meet their needs.

Denise Lormans, Manager

Name/Organisation: Edwina Hughes, Coordinator, Peace Movement Aotearoa

Involvement with NCWNZ: Peace Movement Aotearoa is not a member of NCWNZ, although some of our member organisations are (for example, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa Section). Our direct involvement with NCWNZ over the years has been through participation in NGO consultations around reports to UN treaty monitoring bodies, and our use of NCWNZ information resources.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ has an invaluable role in providing information for women and the wider community on issues that affect the well-being of women and their families. NCWNZ's branches provide an excellent opportunity for women to come together locally and discuss topical issues, and their views are passed on to other branches via the National Office. The National Office provides outreach and resources to women's and other NGOs at a national level; and coordinates NCWNZ submissions (to parliamentary Select Committees and so on) which are a very useful indicator of the range of women's views, and a source of accurate well-researched information. Similarly NCWNZ's reports to UN bodies are a valuable source of information; and their engagement with the International Council of Women provides NGOs and others here with a useful insight into the concerns and issues facing women and their families in other countries.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

The activities and work of NCWNZ are of great benefit to the public because there is simply no other organisation that does what NCWNZ does.

We are very concerned at the possibility that NCWNZ may be deregistered by the Charities Commission because the negative consequences that are likely to follow will impact on the organisation's ability to do its work which would be most unfortunate.

We also have a wider concern that if an organisation like NCWNZ - which is so clearly a not for profit organisation with charitable purposes - is deregistered, that sets a precedent for deregistration of other NGOs who are doing essential work in other parts of the community, and that would be extremely harmful for the public good.

Date: 6 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Altrusa International Club of Christchurch

Involvement with NCWNZ: Affiliate to NCWNZ Christchurch Branch

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Education of the delegates/members via information received through publications e.g. The Circular and email, on the background of international, national and local issues concerning women and society.

Our Club appreciates the information that allows us to become better informed and educated on these issues. It adds to the body of knowledge gained from other sources and is valuable as it is not condensed into a 15 second 'sound bite'.

We are also appreciative of the opportunities to contribute our knowledge via the network of NCWNZ.

We have gained from the training and resources that NCWNZ has provided/shared with the NGO community especially in regard to governance, communicating with our own members and in up skilling members to look beyond the headlines.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

There are very few opportunities for women to be able to be educated on or research an issue, discuss it and then come to a consensus opinion. We value the opportunity to share our views within a wider forum that contributes to the overall wellbeing of New Zealand. To be able to do this in an apolitical forum is extremely important to our organisation.

The connections that NCWNZ makes from small communities to national forums and in some cases international forums ensures everyone involved feels part of the discussion and decision making process.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Altrusa International Inc of Invercargill, Southern Adult Literacy

Involvement with NCWNZ: I have been involved for a number of years with discussion groups to provide feedback to the NCW submissions.

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCW is an important avenue for advocacy of women and issues that affect environment surrounding women. In many of the national decision making bodies, women are in the minority, but women's views and opinions have an important part to play in the fabric and experience of society. They are often at the 'coal face' of a majority of issues the Government preside over. Over many years NCW has had an influential impact of many national campaigns that directly affect women, and this influence has been backed and resourced from women's input at regional level.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ enables the women's perspective to be heard at a level that has jurisdiction over decision making. The Government talk about the importance of family and community. Here is a group of New Zealanders that can obtain and offer critical insights into these areas.

They do this on a regular basis for the benefit of all who live in the community.

We live in a democracy and everyone has the right to be heard either directly or through an advocate group. NCW is such a group that has community benefit at its core, and ultimately all New Zealanders benefit.

Date: 7 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Rae Duff / NZFGW (Wellington Branch)

Involvement with NCWNZ: National Education Standing Committee Convenor,
Independent member of NCW

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Provides an apolitical national voice for women on social and political issues of the day

Informs and educates women about important issues affecting women, families and the community

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Influences government policy by preparing submissions to select committees and ministries

Promotes the value of women and girls and their roles in NZ society

Date: 7 June 2010

Name/Organisation: Unicef NZ

Involvement with NCWNZ: Affiliate member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

Works to identify and oppose discrimination against women and to promote women's contribution in all aspects of political, community and family life. Provides robust information and gathers facts to inform submissions and positions that can be championed by other organisations.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Ensures that the strengths and potential of all people, obviously including women and children, can be recognised and harnessed and able to contribute to nation, community and family building.

Date: 6 July 2010

Name/Organisation: NCW Matamata Branch

Involvement with NCWNZ: Branch Secretary; Convener, Economics Standing Committee

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ provides a voice for women from all walks of life, a focus for discussion of issues relevant to women and their families, and an opportunity to take action with others where there is a perceived need in a community.

Through NCWNZ, women are informed on a wide number of issues that affect them and their families and communities. They have a forum for the exchange of ideas, so that communities are not isolated but can recognise the commonality of experience in other areas. The affiliation of NCWNZ to ICW allows women to exchange ideas and support around the world.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ, through newsletters and digital media, educates and informs women all over the country. Through the branches NCWNZ provides the opportunity for women to actively participate in the democratic process. Members learn about current issues from one another and from the information and research provided by the Board and Standing Committee conveners. They participate in discussions, make informed decisions and expressed considered opinions that contribute significantly to the law-making of the day.

NCW branches allow different voices and viewpoints to be heard: rural and urban, high and low skilled, a wide variety of ethnicities and ages. The exchange of information not only collects general grass roots opinion for submissions to Parliament select committees, it also contributes directly to a higher level of tolerance of differences and a better functioning of democracy.

By its collective nature, NCWNZ is a strong advocate for groups who otherwise find it difficult to be heard in the corridors of power. Community groups often work through NCW branches to establish local programmes to address local needs. (e.g. NCW Matamata initiated Senior Net which filled a gap in computer training for elderly Matamata residents.)

NCWNZ has a long and distinguished history of working for the benefit of women and their families. Many successful campaigns have been undertaken to improve the lives of children, enhance education and health, and advance the status of women as equal partners in society. NCWNZ is of the opinion that what improves the lot of women and their families cannot help but benefit society.

Date: 6 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Christina Reymer

Involvement with NCWNZ: Convener, Justice and Law Reform SC

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level?

NCWNZ:

- Is the voice of women
- Disseminates information affecting women
- Promotes intelligent debate and discussion of issues affecting women and society
- Gathers opinion and channels this to the law makers to affect public policy
- Is an important part of civil society, which has a critical role in a functional democracy. The most stable democracies are ones in which there is an active civil society.
- Works to champion the cause of women internationally by networking with women internationally, supporting other national councils, and providing leadership at international fora.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

Improve the well-being of women and families –without NCWNZ or its forerunners we would not:

- Have the vote
- Have women in Parliament,
- Have equal rights
- Enjoy the right to determine our own future - who we are, what we do, how we live our lives.

(We still don't have full equality in many aspects of life, hence the need for NCWNZ to continue its work).

Name/Organisation: Royal New Zealand Plunket Society (Inc)

Involvement with NCWNZ: Financial Member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, and international level?

As a long-time member of the NCWNZ and a like-minded organisation, Plunket supports the work they do to represent New Zealand women, families and communities at all levels. The NCWNZ is an advocate and a voice for women.

How does the work of the NCWNZ provide public benefit?

As an umbrella organisation, the NCWNZ is the voice of many women, both individuals and from other organisations. As an organisation, the NCWNZ informs and listens.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Shirley Payes - Council of Jewish Women of NZ

Involvement with NCWNZ: Branch exec, Branch President, Board member, Representative for the above organisation

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

It is the voice for most women in NZ. There are so many organisations under the NCW umbrella – large and small. It gives women from Cape Reinga to Bluff a chance to voice an opinion about the women and her family and their needs.

Personally, it has been of great value to me, in the areas of learning, sharing and understanding the dynamics of the world around me. As an ethnic person (organisation) NCW has been a great place to foster understanding.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

It is a very important watchdog – not political, NCW brings women's organisation (and women) together for educational purposes. It is most important that all this is channelled through Head Office as it means that any information coming out is well collated and co-ordinated as well as researched.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Involvement with NCWNZ: Frances Townsend, Board Member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

NCWNZ serves women, the family and the community at local, national and international level

1. By identifying issues critical to the welfare of these groups
2. Surveying women throughout NZ on their opinions on these issues
3. Analysing and collating these opinions
4. Forwarding submissions based on this data for the politicians in select committees
5. Educating and encouraging women to apply for positions on Boards etc and take a responsibility eg in NCWNZ or in local government etc
6. Running events for selected projects such as “meet the candidates prior to elections”, running public lectures etc.
7. Educating members through the circular
8. Applying for grants to send women without financial resources to attend conferences etc

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

1. The work of NCWNZ provides public benefit by identifying **critically** important social issues such as child education and health, moral and physical safety and making effective contact with the people who can take effective action through legislation.
2. NCWNZ plays an important part in the international scene at the UNO which creates public benefit through eg. CEDAW which highlights particular needs on the national scene eg Adult Community Education, ECE etc.
3. NCWNZ educates NZ on most issues of relevance to “public benefit” through the 10 standing committees; Economics, Education, Environment, Employment, Consumer Affairs, Health, Justice and Law Reform, Public Issues and Social Issues

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Involvement with NCWNZ: Elizabeth Bang – NCW Board Member, President

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

NCWNZ is able to research any issue involving women and their families. The diverse membership enables good debate and with 114 years of policy to work with, we have an excellent platform of evidence. We continue to gather information from all Branches and women's groups – it is a voice for all women in NZ.

- Local Level - we can help women present; enable local body politicians to come together at election time to draw on resources to send to National Office.
- National level – represents all women's groups in many ways including mentoring women to become leaders.
- With membership of the International Women's Organisation we are able to discuss and lead many policy issues which affect women and families globally – eg Sexualisation of Children

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ is apolitical, we listen to the voice of all women. We research and present our findings and our research is available to all and we represent groups of women who find it difficult to speak out.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Involvement with NCWNZ: Correen Rodger, NCW Board member, National Treasurer

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

By bringing together women from all walks of life, from throughout NZ, rural and urban, in order to encourage, educate and support them to be healthy and positive citizens. Internationally NCWNZ is represented at international gatherings, again for the purpose of ensuring all women and their families are able to be supported and educated to take responsibility for their lives and that their rights are protected.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCWNZ's work provides public benefit in many ways. In my local branch the members have monthly meetings at which speakers are engaged to bring information and knowledge on topics, varied, which they in turn take to their own organisation which they represent.

Recently a speaker advised how homes could be insulated esp homes in poorer areas – this information was not widely known.

Every year the branch raises money to provide cash for the combined food banks for perishable and tinned goods.

A collection of toiletries for the Women's refuges was also taken,

Fundraising is also done for organisations and a couple of years ago presented \$2,000 worth of new linen to the Women's refuge.

Each election, local body and national, the branch organises meetings for the public to attend and hear from the candidates.

The Branch has organised a leadership forum for the public, where many women were treated to a wide range of speakers, who encouraged mentoring and empowerment.

The Branch raised funds through Pub Charities to produce and distribute pamphlets on Domestic Violence to every household in Dunedin with sufficient copies to be provided to other organisations.

The Branch has to fundraise to send delegates to national conferences – it sees this as a means of professional development and mentoring which flows back to the other representative organisations.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Barbara Arnold

Involvement with NCWNZ: Manawatu Branch, NCW Board member

In your opinion, how does NCWNZ serve women, the family and the community at the local, national, international level?

NCW consults widely with women throughout NZ on a wide range of topics, and background information is provided as part of this to educate the membership. Members also seek out information themselves and this broadens the knowledge base. The feedback is used by National Office to reflect what women are thinking. Another major role is mentoring women into positions of responsibility, and leadership, through training, encouragement and support. Internationally, NCWNZ has highlighted the plight of vulnerable women and children, through work in areas such as trafficking, environmental refugees and sexualisation of children.

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

NCW speaks on behalf of women and their families, these who have no other voice and struggle to get those in power to take note of their concerns. NCW provides policy analysis to demonstrate the impact of suggestions on the vulnerable, in a way that is apolitical. Mentoring women enables them to make a greater contribution to their own and communities and strengthens both individuals and the community.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: Patricia Woodley

Involvement with NCWNZ: NCW Board Member, Vice President

How does the work of NCWNZ provide public benefit?

- Education of women and families.
- Teaches them how to cope in a changing society.
- Family life.
- Economics.
- Future learning.

Date: 9 July 2010

Name/Organisation: NCW Manukau

How NCWNZ helped the family at grass roots level

The current issue attracting attention and talked about on radio makes me write this comment.

NCWNZ in 1986 Dunedin provided me with opportunity to know information about what was happening in New Zealand and beyond.

I happened to understand the language and as a trainee in women's church work at Knox, I needed to get the best information for the ministry of God's work, which includes everything that we talk about at NCW.

In Auckland, and Manukau Branches, I continued to do this, and I'm still passing on information to the women at grassroots level in the church.

I used all that knowledge which I get from NCW in the Christian activities that I had to prepare and organize for women, in the preschool which I managed for 12 years, in the National Fono Samoa women that I was help leading, and I am a member of, and especially in my home, where I had to look after kids and young people building up their lives, especially in education matters.

NCW can be proud of all that. The only hazard for some women is the language. But I represent them for that, if they only listen and respect the help that I am giving them and the rest of society.

Let's continue with our NCW.

Sailau, Manukau Branch

Name: Margaret Wilson, Representing the Mothers' Union

Involvement with NCWNZ: At the Auckland Branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand

I was an individual member of the NCW Auckland Branch for about five years, but while the National President of Mothers' Union in the Anglican Province of Aotearoa, we have brought MU into NCW by way of the Auckland Branch. I am on the Auckland Executive, having served as Family Affairs Corresponding Secretary and latterly Social Issues Corresponding Secretary, and in that capacity now co-ordinate the NCW Auckland Team intent on "Saving the Auckland Suffrage Memorial in Lower Khartoum Place". We work in liaison with NCWNZ, and the whole country is involved in this issue, as we are also involved in the Christchurch Branch's initiative to seek category 1 Heritage protection for the home of Kate Sheppard, leader of the suffragists who won votes for all NZ women in 1893.

The suffragists were not an elite group seeking any advantage for themselves. They worked for years as a dedicated group to secure the vote on behalf of all NZ women, some of whom would have been intimidated by their husbands against this issue. The vote was won by force of numbers, which would not have been possible for small piecemeal groups.

When the suffragist leaders formed the National Council of Women in 1896 they had already learned and demonstrated how to succeed in their aims by binding together various divergent groups for the good of the whole. This continues to the present day. It does not suppress the differing views of its component groups, but will use the voting system to define the course of action necessary. This is a lesson in democracy. It has no particular political affiliation, nor religious, nor moral point of view but, by its constitution, is devoted to searching for the best outcome for its thousands of members.

The National Council of Women is at the forefront of fighting for the rights of women, but not at the expense of the family unit. Its standing committees are elected from a variety of volunteer women at Branch and National level, and we are also affiliated to the International Council of Women. We participate in international conferences where we learn about the conditions of women in other countries, and we take part in the initiatives being worked through at the United Nations.

The public benefit provided by the National Council of Women of New Zealand is gained by the huge number of highly-intelligent and well-educated women who give their time and energy in a voluntary capacity for the good of the whole country. Without this huge workforce operating in all forms of charity work, as well as keeping the Government honest by studying and making submissions on all manner of new legislation that has been proposed, the country would grind to a halt.

It is unthinkable to think that the Charities Commission would do a u-turn on its decision to grant charitable status to the National Council of Women of NZ, made only 2-3 years ago, and make life difficult for the very organisation that is toiling so generously to try and make life easier for so many.

Name/Organisation: Women's Health Action Trust

Kia ora,

This is an email to note that Women's Health Action Trust strongly endorses the work of the National Council of Women as a vital member of the NGO community providing education, information and resources services to support the wellbeing of women and children in Aotearoa New Zealand. We particularly appreciate the work of the National Council of Women as a networking hub for the many NGOs working for the wellbeing of women and children around the country, supporting us to stay informed about each others activities and events, and to collaborate on issues/activities of shared interest.

We trust that the National Council of Women will continue to be valued and supported in its important role in the NGO sector.

Kind regards

Christy Parker, Policy Analyst

Date: 7 July 2010

Name: Faith Price

Involvement with NCWNZ: One of the Association of Anglican Women representatives at the Nelson Branch of National Council of Women.

National Council of Women has the interests of women at heart, as it has since its formation.

A former President commented a few years ago that NCW 'takes the pulse' of society and this struck me at the time as a very apt remark. NCW members are very aware of the different situations and problems in society which either enhance or devalue women. I am rather amazed that people considering this issue may apparently be unaware of NCW's role.

NCW often has speakers who keep us aware of what is going on, e.g. a recent talk about problem gambling. Another talk related to grandparents raising grandchildren and the difficulties they face which are often ignored or misunderstood by society as a whole.

Like a pebble thrown into a pond, with ripples moving outwards, the Branch influence spreads to NZ-wide influence and then to international level.

We are asked how the work of NCWNZ provides public benefit? I suggest that if NCWNZ was taken out of the picture,

NZ, particularly in relation to women and their situation in life, would be much the poorer. Groups affiliated to NCW discuss all sorts of issues and feed answers and ideas back.

Organisation: The Auckland District Council of Social Services (ADCOSS) wishes to express its strong view that the National Council of Women should retain its charitable status.

Clearly the purpose of the National Council of Women "to serve women, the family and the community at the local, national and international level" is a charitable purpose. It is directly derived from, with some modernisation of language, the "relief of aged, impotent and poor people" and the relief of poverty generally as well as the advancement of education, another charitable purpose of ancient lineage. As a group that made extensive submissions on the Bill that established the Charities Commission the intention of that Act was to support, advise and advocate for charitable organisations while turning the searchlight on corruption, inefficiency and private benefits. None of these concerns apply to the National Council of Women.

Please maintain their charitable status.

Richard Northey, Chair, ADCOSS