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GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO BE QUESTIONED AT CEDAW

Embargoed till 8am Tuesday 31 July 2007

Today the spotlight will be on the Government's commitment to women, when two representatives from the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) make a presentation to the UN's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) Committee in New York.

The representatives', Anne Todd-Lambie and Beryl Anderson, presentation will be asking the following questions:

- What family friendly workplace policies and practices are included in the parliamentary and local body structures to enable women to participate in elected roles?
- What is the true value of the approximately \$5,000 worth of paid parental leave and how generous or, supportive is this compared to the previous family benefit?
- Does paid parental leave ensure a minimum of financial security for children in the first weeks of their life or is it an incentive/pressure for mothers to return to paid work as soon as possible?
- Given the only 60% uptake, what will the Government be doing to ensure that all 3 and 4 year olds will receive the 20 free hours under the new early childhood education policy without incurring 'optional charges' or increased rates for 'non-free' hours?
- What was the advice on any gender implication for the Kiwisaver legislation and what changes were made as a result of that advice?
- What action is being taken to address the chronic shortage of nurses and nurse assistants?
- What steps is the government taking to collect the over \$1 billion outstanding child support payments?

- With respect to Child Support what has been the Government's response to women seeking investigation of the financial circumstances of their former partner?
- Where is the Government's promised review of the changes to the Property (Relationships) Act 1976?
- What is the Government doing to ensure that women are able to urgently access a legal aid lawyer?
- Can the government demonstrate how the recommendations from the Women's access to Legal Services report have been implemented, and how they have improved women's access to justice?
- What steps is the Government taking to address gender stereotypes about women and girls, especially as portrayed in the mainstream media?
- How does the Government plan to reduce the gender pay gap in all sectors so that women with equivalent skills and experience receive the same pay as men for the same or similar work?
- What has been the impact of changes in employment legislation on addressing the structural issues that affect women in casual, temporary and part-time work?

ENDS

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