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**PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PREGNANCY A NO-GO FOR ABUSE**

National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is appalled that new research findings show some ten percent of women are risking their health and physical well-being and that of their unborn children because of violence experienced during pregnancy.

“This latest research shows that violence knows no bounds. Many people in our society would be shocked to think that a pregnant woman would have to suffer from this kind of behaviour,” says NCWNZ National President Christine Low.

“Society must act on these latest findings; it is abhorrent to think that mothers-to-be, and their defenceless unborn children are being exposed to this kind of physical violence. This time in a woman’s life should be a happy and joyous period, not one of fear and of physical abuse “

“Measures must be taken to prevent this type of behaviour from continuing. Factors like financial stress and timing of the pregnancy are not justifications for this kind of violent behaviour. Mates can help mates face up to their unacceptable behaviour,” concluded Christine Low

The research shows that three-quarters of the women who had been beaten through their pregnancy had experienced violence before their pregnancy.

ENDS

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*"Women Influencing Policy"*