

**Submission to the Health Select Committee on the Misuse of Drugs
(Classification of BZP) Amendment Bill**

NCWNZ is an umbrella organisation representing 46 Nationally Organised Societies and National Members. It has 28 Branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. It also has three satellite groups and three regional consultation groups. NCWNZ is representative of approximately 350,000 women, via its affiliated bodies. The function of NCWNZ is to work for the well-being of women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

NCWNZ is pleased to add its voice in support of this Bill as members have great concern at the availability of harmful substances being so readily available in New Zealand. Members noted that this would bring New Zealand into line with other countries such as Australia where these are illegal.

Members supplied many accounts of uncharacteristic behaviour, including:

- "My friend thought she was tied to a rock and drowning in a river. I had to stay with her to stop her running on to the road. I took her home in a taxi and remained with her that night. In the morning she could not remember what she had done the night before."
- "My grandson came home one night after a party where he had taken party pills with alcohol. He was totally out of it, trashed his room, including TV and computer. I called the police to restrain him and he looked at me with total hate after they cuffed him, and he told me he hated me. The next day he couldn't believe what he had done."

These are just two of the first hand accounts of the effects of these substances.

Part 1 Amendments to principal Act and amnesty provision

Clause 4 Schedule 3 amended

NCWNZ members support this amendment to include all substances related to BZP drugs on the Class C schedule of controlled drugs.

Clause 6 Amnesty in relation to use and possession for personal use of BZP

Many members feel that giving a six months amnesty would just mean an extra six months use and would not be used as a time to wean off this drug. While the six months is in progress someone might be illegally selling and so make a mockery of this proposed legislation. Therefore NCWNZ believes that there should not be an amnesty at all, but instead all parts of the Bill should become law on the commencement date of 18 December 2007.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Christine Low
National President

Christine Rattray
Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee

