

**Submission to Statistics New Zealand on the  
2011 Census content consultation**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 46 nationally organised societies. It has 26 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies as well as individual members. The Council's function is to serve women, families and the community through research, study, discussion and action.

NCWNZ is pleased to consider this Consultation Document. The response has been prepared by the Public Issues Standing Committee.

**2011 Census Submission Questionnaire**

*1. Legal marital/relationship status*

*Response to: A change to the question to help respondents to better understand civil unions and improve data quality.*

The proposal to clarify this question is supported.

*2. Total annual income*

*Response to: A change to the income categories to collect a wider (higher) range of income amounts.*

This would be useful for statistical purposes.

*3. Number of children born*

*Response to: Will not be included in the 2011 Census but will be retained on a cyclical basis.*

Because of the potential for rapid changes in reproductive patterns this data should be collected at each census. It must be useful for forward planning not only for health and education, but also commercial decisions by local authorities and businesses.

*4. Cigarette smoking*

*Response to: Will not be included in the 2011 Census but will be retained on a cyclical basis.*

Because other organisations are collecting this material and circulating it, it should not need to be done at each Census. Should that circulation cease then NCWNZ would expect the census to take it up again.

*5. Access to telecommunication systems*

*Response to: Changes to categories to reflect technological change.*

NCWNZ would find it useful to retain this question in the census, the report of which is seen as being one of the most readily available for our research. Members understand there is a trend

towards the use of cell phones rather than land lines - particularly for non-home owners. Faxes are still used by our membership when the internet is not available, so that question is still relevant.

*6. Fuel types used to heat dwelling*

*Response to: Changes to categories to reflect technological change.*

Information about additional categories for other fuel types could be useful especially in collecting data about whether households are using fuel-conserving methods such as heat pumps and home ventilation systems.

Another question to consider could be the annual cost of those various fuels to that household. This would be useful for social agencies which create allowances based on demographics rather than climate e.g. accommodation allowances.

*7. Number of motor vehicles*

*Response to: Changes to categories of number of motor vehicles.*

Raising the top category is seen as realistic and could be useful information to be used in trying to encourage the reduction in the number of vehicles in households.

*8. Other quality improvements for the 2011 Census*

Members expressed concern about how the ethnicity question is answered as increasing numbers of people are writing New Zealander which is not helpful for statistical purposes. It is pleasing to note that Statistics NZ is reviewing the collection of information on cultural identity across the Official Statistics System. It would be helpful if the meaning of this question was clearer in the 2011 Census.

All NCWNZ Standing Committees welcome the opportunity to use census information when formulating responses to discussion documents and submissions to Select Committees on proposed legislation. Therefore, having comprehensive statistics available in one document assists with research time for all our volunteers.

*9. Further contact*

Yes, Statistics NZ may contact NCWNZ regarding other consultations.

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