

Thank you for attending the meeting in Manukau City on the 12 July 2007 at the TelstraClear Pacific Event Centre where the Hon Lianne Dalziel spoke about the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) and the Action Plan for Women. You specifically asked for feedback. We have noted the key points raised and our intended action against them. I hope this helps to know that we are following up on the issues raised.

With best wishes

Shenagh Gleisner
Chief Executive

What we heard	What we are doing or will do
Funding for community groups working in the area of violence, and particularly with Māori and Pacific communities	This issue is already being addressed and is a priority for government. Please access information on the grants from the community action fund www.familyservices.govt.nz and also the information on the Taskforce for Violence www.msd.govt.nz which shows how support for communities and NGOs is occurring, and particularly training for Māori and Pacific communities.
Are there too many nominations databases (apparently NCW have just set one up) and can the Nominations Service provide nominations for private sector boards	We will ask NCW more about their database and ensure good communications with women about the databases. We are using our Nominations database network to share information on private sector vacancies.
Make MWA more accessible in the regions	MWA to explore better use of current regional networks and centres for women to get information out to women. MWA and the Minister to maintain ongoing programme of regional visits.
A range of issues about poverty and low pay for women, under-valuing women's work, and the operation of loan sharks	The Minister already works with the Minister of Labour on this subject, particularly with the National Advisory Group on the Employment of Women (NACEW) who takes a particular focus on low pay. The government has a plan of action to tackle pay and employment equity. The Pay and Employment Equity unit in the Department of Labour (DoL) is working on a programme which is aimed to support the value of women's work.
Choices for women to work or care for children or others	This is a high priority for government with the <i>Working for Families</i> package, paid parental leave, extended parental leave, and a wide range of projects that try to support women, and families make choices that work for them.
Gambling may have gender aspects and it may be linked to violence in the home	MWA will explore this subject and also with other agencies to check if adequate gender analysis is being undertaken.

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Enable the voices of ethnic women to be effectively heard by government, especially in health	MWA is working out a way of setting up a process of regular engagement with ethnic women for the Minister.
Ensure that disability is represented at the policy level in health	MWA will discuss with Ministry of Health (MoH).
ECE funding problems for specific organisations	The Minister is following this up specifically.
Availability of English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses for migrants	MWA will follow up the situation with relevant agencies.
Fathering is an issue that could be given attention by the Ministry	MWA plans to engage more with men over the next year, and will give consideration to the focus being on parenting and attachment to children. This is already part of the domestic violence programme. Please also check out the work of the Families Commission. www.familiescommission.govt.nz
Alcohol misuse is high amongst girls	MWA has had an initial discussion with the Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council (ALAC) and will take this contact further. The main population groups for ALAC's attention this year are Māori, Pacific and young people, so a focus on gender should be easy.
The importance of breast feeding	The government supports breast-feeding such as ensuring that breast-feeding is permitted in public areas and through programmes run by MoH. Parental leave allows time for women to breast-feed and the government is working with employers to build more flexible workplaces.
Value of specialist NGOs in the health area is not recognised, for example eating disorders services not funded enough and PHOs trying to do work that specialist NGOs do better – e.g. in sexual violence	MWA will find opportunities to raise this both with Health but also through the sexual violence taskforce.
Settlement issues for women – a range of challenges	MWA will raise these issues with DoL who is responsible for the settlement strategy.
ERO – did the review cover specialist schools?	MWA will ask ERO, and make the point about the importance of including specialist schools.
Single parents must be analysed separately	This is already a major focus for MWA because of the multiple disadvantages faced by single parents. MWA will commit time and resources to participate in a particular project run by the Ministry of Social Development on single parents.