

Thank you to those who attended the meeting in Wellington at the Copthorne Hotel Plimmers Towers on Monday 17 September 2007 where the Hon Lianne Dalziel spoke about the work of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) and the Action Plan for New Zealand Women.

Issues raised by the audience included

What we heard	Follow up
<p>EEO in government departments Recent figures on the number of women chief executives in the state sector showed that New Zealand had made very little progress since the 1980s. It was felt that affirmative action for women, Māori and people with disabilities had been scaled back, and she wanted to know what we could do about this.</p> <p>Another audience member, noted how important it was for the EEO function to be kept separate, rather than being mainstreamed into the general HR function.</p>	<p>The Minister discussed the important role of the EEO Commissioner, and the business case for women in leadership positions.</p> <p>The Minister offered to raise the issue of the number of women in senior positions in the state sector with the Minister for Labour. She also discussed raising the issue through NACEW.</p>
<p>Sexual and reproductive health The Minister and the Ministry was congratulated on its recent work on sexuality education in schools, and on domestic violence and was encouraged to continue to be a 'ginger group' within government, particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health where there remains much to be done.</p>	
<p>Domestic and sexual violence <i>It's not okay campaign</i> Concerns were raised about the 'It's not okay' booklet associated with the Taskforce for Action on Violence with Families' (TAVF's) domestic violence campaign. It was stated that there was not enough mention of women in the booklet even though statistics show that women are overwhelmingly the victims of domestic violence.</p>	<p>The Minister noted that the next phase of the campaign will focus on intimate partner violence and that there would therefore be more of a focus on women. The audience generally felt that the advertisements were very good.</p>
<p>Disabilities working party – NNSVS and Refuge NNSVS is setting up a disabilities working party with Refuge to bring greater attention to the issue of domestic violence and people with disabilities. They feel that the TAVF's first report did not cover issues for disabled people.</p>	

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<p>Domestic Violence Act It is believed that the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) does not cover people with disabilities effectively. For example, the definition of a 'household' is so limited that it does not cover people in residential care.</p>	<p>The Minister asked the NNSVS/Refuge working party to write to her about these issues.</p>
<p>Sexual violence research The NNSVS/Refuge working party noted that it was very interested in being a part of the MWA sexual violence research project, and for more information on NNEST.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the MWA SV research unit would arrange a suitable time to meet with the working party.</p>
<p>Women and sport Women's leadership targets The issue of women's leadership in sport. Was raised. In the Brighton Declaration on Women in Sport in 1994, the International Olympic Committee set a target for women to hold 20 percent of national leaders' positions and New Zealand is not meeting this target.</p>	<p>The Minister asked Robyn to write to her about this issue and said that she would take it up with the Minister for Sport. The relevant research will be sent to the Minister.</p>
<p>Grants from gaming trusts A gender analysis of the distribution of grants from gaming trusts was called for. Although many women contribute to the trusts through their gambling, most of the funding seems to go to male-dominated football and cricket clubs.</p>	<p>The Minister said that she is already focussing on this issue, as she has been advised that the number of women represented on the gaming trust boards is less than 10 percent. She hopes to have an intern contact each of the gaming trusts to ask for details of their memberships, and also for a breakdown of distributions. She will then be following up with the Minister of Internal Affairs.</p>
<p>Child Support Scheme MWA was asked to investigate, evaluate and monitor liable parent contributions under the Child Support Scheme. There were concerns that the current system places the onus on the sole parent who may have left a violent relationship to continue to monitor the actions and income of their former partner/spouse to get a fair contribution towards the bringing up of their children. This means that many sole parents are living in a state of poverty and insecurity.</p> <p>Some liable parents will attempt to hide their money to keep it from their children through trusts, cash businesses, hidden assets or by leaving the country. Some Australian states offer better practice examples of how to deal with this issue.</p>	<p>The Minister said that she has already raised this issue with Peter Dunne, but that she would do so again. She noted that a review of the Child Support Act is coming up and said that she would make sure that the gender dimension is considered in this context.</p>

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<p>HIV/AIDS Concerns were raised about the increasing rate of HIV infection among heterosexual women in New Zealand. They wanted to know what was being done to make women aware of the risk of HIV.</p> <p>Others shared these concerns and that it may be time for a re-evaluation of New Zealand's approach to HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>The Minister said that MWA would take this issue up with the Ministry of Health to find out what is happening.</p>
<p>Equal pay for disabled women Pay rates for disabled women was brought up. A report is coming out soon that shows that the trends in disabled women's pay are worsening.</p>	
<p>African women's network Chair of the African Women's Network, asked how ethnic women could work with MWA and said that the African Women's Network is very keen to feed into any upcoming projects.</p>	<p>MWA would be happy to meet with the African Women's Network to talk about MWA's work programme.</p> <p>The Minister said that she was keen to engage with ethnic and migrant women and that she saw a gap in her social partnership arrangements as there was no national organisation for ethnic and migrant women.</p>
<p>Ethnic women on state sector boards Office of Ethnic Affairs (OEA) congratulated the Ministry on its role in achieving 42 percent women on state sector boards and wanted to know how many ethnic women are on state sector boards. She also said she was very keen for OEA and MWA to work together on building ethnic women's capacity to be on boards and in other leadership positions.</p>	
<p>Funding for Rape Crisis services Support for social service agencies such as Rape Crisis was raised. It was felt that these agencies are over-worked and under-funded and worn down by having to justify their 'by women, for women' stance. She asked whether the government was committed to ongoing funding for the sector.</p>	<p>The Minister discussed the priority being given to the issue of sexual violence through the Taskforce for Action on Sexual Violence and through MWA's sexual violence research. She said that she was happy to meet with Rape Crisis on this issue.</p>
<p>Gambling The Problem Gambling Foundation provided MWA with a copy of the Foundation's submission to the Gambling Act Review.</p>	

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<p>Sexual violence research An independent advocate for refugees and migrants, noted her strong interest in the SV research project and asked the research team to contact her with more information.</p>	
<p>Action plan for New Zealand Women – update An update on the Action Plan for New Zealand Women was asked for, and wants to know if we are doing any better now than when the plan was written.</p>	