



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**
Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

**Oral submission to the Health Select Committee on the NCW submission on the
Health Protection Amendment Bill 234, S15.04
made by Patricia Byrne and Beryl Anderson on 25 February 2015**

Health Select Committee

Present: Simon O'Connor (National) Chair, Kevin Hague (Green), Barbara Stewart (NZ First), Shane Reti (National), Scott Simpson (National), Jacqui Dean (National) [was present when we started but left], Barbara Kuriger (National) Deputy Chair.

Good morning. My name is Patricia Byrne and my colleague is Beryl Anderson. We are both members of the Parliamentary Watch Committee of the National Council of Women.

NCWNZ supports this Bill. Our appearance here today is to give more detail of the experience of a women interviewed by our Health Committee Convenor. She is mentioned on the second page of our submission under

Part 2. Artificial UV Tanning Services

Clause 13. New Part 5 inserted

She was a young married woman with two young children and she was suffering severe psoriasis (a common skin disease – cause unknown, treated by sunlight or exposure to sunlight or ultraviolet light¹). She was admitted to hospital for a stay of 2 months. Treatment was 45 minutes per day under sun lamp with ultra-violet light. Now, 45 years later, the chance of skin cancer is greatly increased. It was common treatment at that time. No one ever explained treatment dangers. She is now receiving treatment for skin cancer. This woman gives full consent for this information to be used as and if required.

Proposed new Section 114. Ban on providing artificial UV tanning services to persons under 18 years.

As always, we are concerned that young people may take actions that they will later regret. It is good to see this clause in the proposed legislation.

Conclusion

Thank you for allowing NCWNZ the opportunity to give our views.

¹ Youngson RM. Dictionary of Medicine. Collins

Questions

Kevin Hague asked if NCWNZ was wanting sunbeds banned. Paddy responded saying that it wasn't in our brief but we wanted best practices to be followed and customers to be warned of any dangers/side effects. Kevin then commented that the Australians had outlawed them. This was not touched on in the written submission.

Scott Simpson made a statement (not a question to us) indicating that in the early days, doctors would not have been aware of the adverse effects of ultra violet treatment.

Simon O'Connor indicated that Rural Women had concerns about tracing contacts in remote localities. Beryl responded, with a tongue-tied use of contact chasing instead of contact tracing, that the authorities needed to have the appropriate resources to trace people.