



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to PHARMAC on the Health Industry Sponsorship of
Consumer Health Organisations Questionnaire**

- 1. Name of your Organisation**
National Council of Women of New Zealand Inc (Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa)
- 2. Sphere of operation.**
National,
Local, and
International
- 3. Main area of interest.**
Justice and Law Reform,
Consumer Affairs,
Public Issues,
Health,
Social Issues,
Economics,
Environment,
Family Affairs.
- 4. Main purposes of the organisation. (tick as many as you wish)**
Advocacy,
Support,
Information/education, and
Research
- 5. Number of members?**
The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 40 nationally organised societies. It has 33 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. Thus the views and activities of NCWNZ members touch thousands of women.
- 6. From the options listed in the Discussion Paper, which option or options do you prefer? (tick as many as you wish)**

Option 5: This option leaves control of the group's activities in the hands of the group. It also means that the sponsor does not unduly influence views espoused by the Group. Both of these aspects must be protected by a well drawn-up contract. The contract should also acknowledge the need for transparency. It should also address the needs of an organisation where charitable status is important. It is also important that there is flexibility should a situation change, e.g. sponsor company is sold or changes its policy. The





perception of members and the public about the appropriate use of sponsor funding must be safeguarded.

However, it is only fair that the sponsor still receives public acknowledgement through websites and annual reports.

7. **Do you have another option (if yes, please outline)?**
No
8. **Has your organisation been offered industry support?**
No
9. **Does your organisation accept industry support?**
No
10. **If your organisation has never been offered industry support, would your group accept it, if offered?**
This would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
11. **If your organisation has received industry support, please specify the sources.**
N/A
12. **Does your group have a policy on industry support? Yes/No If yes, please briefly outline this policy.**
See question 10, being developed.
13. **Would you make your policy available as a resource?**
Probably not publicly but to member organisations on request with board approval.
14. **Is there any limit on the support that is accepted?**
N/A
15. **Can you express the limit as a proportion of total funds received by your organisation?**
N/A
16. **Does your organisation accept only unrestricted funds (that is, not tied to a specific purpose)?**
In practice, appropriate social ethics dictate what is applied for and how sponsorship money and grants are used, e.g. a major trading bank offering sponsorship for a "Women's Access to Credit Survey" was deemed inappropriate. From time to time funding is sought to assist in delivering health seminars, educational days, etc.
17. **If no, please outline the purposes to which funds can be put.**
N/A
18. **Does your organisation endorse products or treatments produced by a company from which you receive funding or support?**
No
19. **Does the industry from which you receive funding or support have any direct input into consumer information or other publications of your organisation?**
No



- 20. Do you disclose the support publicly and, if so, where? (tick as many as you wish)**
Annual report
Annual accounts
Web site
On any specific products, events, resources that have received industry funding
National newsletter
All of the above
- 21. Do you have examples from your own experience of the risks of accepting support from the pharmaceutical industry? Please describe briefly.**
We have no experience of support from the pharmaceutical industry.
- 22. Do you support the development of a checklist and a voluntary guideline on health industry support of consumer health groups?**
Yes
- 23. Would you like us to inform you about the result of the consultation?**
Yes
- 24. Would you like us to continue to inform you of any other developments in this area?**
Yes
- 25. Can we identify information you have provided as coming from your group or would you rather keep it confidential?**
NCWNZ is happy to have information identified but only after the Board has given its approval.

NCWNZ have completed this questionnaire from the viewpoint of an umbrella organisation as you are already approaching many of our members in their own organisations.

Thank you for this opportunity to complete your questionnaire and we look forward to seeing your findings.

Christine Low
National President

Catherine Gurnsey
Convener, Health Standing Committee