



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

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**Submission to the Health Research Council of New Zealand on the  
Injury, Impairment, Rehabilitation and Disability  
Research Portfolio Strategy Review**

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. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action. NCWNZ is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this document from the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) as we have always taken a keen interest in Health Issues and we see research as a vital tool if New Zealand wants to keep abreast with the latest technologies and strategies.

NCWNZ is happy to see the changes that bring rehabilitation both from injury and from disease or pathology together in this strategy, as we feel that it would mean less doubling up of research, as often the rehabilitative measures would be similar.

It is of concern to us that child injury death rates are one of the highest in the OECD countries and this therefore is an area where we would like to see research so that we can reverse this.

NCWNZ would also agree that evaluation of rehabilitation techniques and approaches needs to be researched as to the effectiveness of most interventions, over the medium to long term, and on the participation restriction rather than the level of impairment only.

We thank you for allowing us to comment on this strategy and look forward to seeing good outcomes from it.

Christine Low  
**National President**

Christine Rattray  
**Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee**

