



28 September 2005

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### **Submission to Statistics New Zealand on the General Social Survey - Preliminary Consultation**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organization representing 40 Nationally Organized Societies. It has 32 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's function is to work for the well-being of women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

NCWNZ is pleased to be given the opportunity to make a submission on this document. We can only agree with the statement made in the introduction that 'the programme will produce comprehensive and cohesive statistics on social well-being and social outcomes, to provide a sound basis for assessing progress towards achieving widely held social goals.' We look forward to this as it will assist greatly in our decision making.

#### **1 Domain: Population**

NCWNZ would like to see a measurement of actual numbers/percentages of particular ethnic groups or nationalities resident in given areas. It is felt that the concentration of such groups, for example in South Auckland, should be viewed as a positive outcome as such concentration enables individuals to support each other.

Another measure for population change is the increasing number of parents living in separate households sharing custody of children.

#### **1 Domain: Housing.**

NCWNZ supports the listed topics, and would support the inclusion of the Other Possible Topics

- Number of moves in the last two years
- Reasons for moving

This information would be most helpful when considering how improvements can be made to help families remain in stable accommodation.

#### **3 Domain: Safety and Security**

The only comment NCWNZ would make to this is that some people are fearful of walking alone in the day time so perhaps the words 'after dark' could be removed.

#### **4 Domain: Economic standard of living**

NCWNZ is very concerned at the level of poverty in New Zealand and so welcomes research in this area. Again we would like to see the 'Other Possible Topic' 'Current personal financial situation compared with 12 months ago' included.





**5 Domain: Knowledge and Skills**

NCWNZ would like to see included under this heading and Knowledge and Skill gained outside of a formal education, such as interpersonal skills, budgeting, managing student loans.

**6 Domain: Health**

NCWNZ would suggest that information on Gambling and the Health of Families should be included as this has an ever increasing affect on societal health and well-being.

**7 Domain: Paid Work**

NCWNZ would agree with the topics as set out.

**8 Domain: Culture and Identity**

We agree with the suggested topics.

**9 Domain: Social Connectedness**

NCWNZ would like to see the topic 'feelings of isolation, trust, sense of community' expanded for those who feel isolated from family and friends to say why, e.g. moved to new location, addiction habits of themselves or others etc.

**10 Domain: Human Rights**

We agree with suggested topics.

**11 Domain: Physical environment**

We agree with suggested topics.

**12 Domain: Leisure and Recreation**

We are aware that leisure and recreation are important components of a healthy lifestyle, but equally we see more people being caught up in leisure activities that are very unhealthy, e.g. gambling, over-consumption of alcohol, and drug-taking. We feel that this needs to be measured to give a balanced view.

NCWNZ appreciates the opportunity to comment on this General Social Survey-Preliminary Consultation, and especially commend that one of the key objectives of the GSS is to enable the analysis of the interrelationship of outcomes across domains, including the exploration of multiple disadvantage. We feel that this will greatly assist our work in the future.

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