



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Social Services Select Committee on the  
NZ Superannuation and Veterans' Pensions (Entitlements of Spouses and Partners of  
People in Long-term Residential Care and Remedial Matters) Bill**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 38 nationally organised 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 serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

At our 2005 National Executive meeting the following resolution was passed.

**“That NCWNZ supports the principle that any national superannuitant with a partner in residential care will be eligible for national superannuation at the single person rate.”**

Consequently we welcome the introduction of this Bill and are pleased that the May 2005 report to the Social Services Committee is being translated into legislation. We note there is general support in Parliament for this Bill and that the commencement date proposed is the 1<sup>st</sup> July this year.

There is a particular aspect of this Bill which deserves favourable comment. This is the impact on people's social well-being – a requirement which, we understand, is implicit in many of the country's statutes.

For several years the Ministry of Health has advocated an 'Ageing-in-Place' strategy, which is seen as a better use of resources and socially more desirable than keeping patients in hospital. We see the enactment of this Bill as complementary to this strategy in that by allowing a single-rate 'super' payment for the spouse at home there is the potential to reduce the stress occasioned by the fear of not being able to maintain living standards. Over time some of our members have expressed cynicism about the many strategies announced by government bodies: now we see a tangible means of making one of those strategies a reality.

NCWNZ will watch with deep interest the progress of this Bill.

Christine Low  
National President

Heather Smith  
Convener, Economics Standing Committee

