



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

National Office  
Level 4 Central House  
26 Brandon Street  
PO Box 25-498  
Wellington 6146  
(04) 473 7623  
[www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz)

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**Submission to the New Zealand Food Safety Authority  
on the Domestic Food Review**

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. It also has a growing number of individual members. 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.

The consumer affairs standing committee of the National Council of Women New Zealand circulated the following questions about the Domestic Food review, to be discussed at each Branch meeting through out New Zealand. Responses were varied and helpful. The committee received a many responses resulting from considerable discussion at Branch levels. Rural branches and groups have in particular been very interested in this issue and have contributed well to this submission.

Members' views were sought on the following questions:

**What type of course do you consider necessary?**

Comments from branches indicated that:

The course need not be too long or costly as this would lead to a deterrent to some of the food industry which, in some cases are among the lower paid bracket within the workforce.

It was considered that the courses should cover basic hygiene and cleanliness and this would be applicable to groups "fund raising" as well, although it was noted that NZFSA has available guideline documents for such groups, members would advocate that there be easier access to this information particularly for some rural areas which are not as well serviced by internet facilities.

Some groups advocated N.C.E.A level or Polytech qualifications being the basic qualification for workers; it was considered that such qualifications could eventually become mandatory for employment. It was suggested by members that such qualifications would enable the worker to change within work settings which would improve the national standard.

**Should it be compulsory for all handlers to attend training?**

It was unanimous from replies received that our members considered training should be compulsory.

Members also agreed that local gala and school fund raising hangi food handlers should be exempt, however it was felt that all food at such events must be covered at all times when in the open.





### **Who should fund such training?**

There was no firm agreement on this question, but the majority considered it should be funded by Government, through the Education Ministry.

Some NCWNZ affiliated professional organisations considered training could be covered by student loans as are nurses and teachers.

Several groups of women considered it should be funded by the industry for which it will benefit, i.e. hotels, restaurants, boarding institutions and schools. It was considered that the larger food industries, in many cases, already have comprehensive training programmes in place, but it was considered such training should be standardised and monitored by a national body. This should be consistent throughout the country.

### **Should it be government of local authorities to monitor the training?**

The majority supported government monitoring as it was considered that this would provide a national standard.

Some members considered small rural areas would find it difficult to maintain an adequate monitoring process as it was considered that the costing of such monitoring was beyond the finances of small rural areas.

### **Conclusion**

NCWNZ thanks FSANZ for the opportunity to comment on this Domestic Food Review, which has generated a large amount of interest from our rural as well as urban branch membership who have contributed well. It has also caused some lively discussion among our members, many of whom are not only consumers responsible for purchasing food for their families but are also involved in voluntary fund raising functions in their communities.

NCWNZ congratulates FSANZ for continuing to develop safe food standards for New Zealand.

Christine Low  
National President

Eileen Imlach  
Convener, Consumer Affairs Standing Committee