



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Social Services Select Committee on the Social Security
(Entitlement Cards) Amendment Bill**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 42 Nationally Organized Societies and national members. NCWNZ has 32 Branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies as well as 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 welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on behalf of our members.

This submission is written by the Social Issues Standing Committee based on input from branch members and NCWNZ policy. It has also been reviewed by a member of the NCWNZ Board and Parliamentary Watch Committee

General Comments

NCWNZ is pleased to be able to comment on this bill. As with any new concept, it has created some lively discussion from our members located throughout New Zealand. One main concern was that this card must give the same benefits as the Community Services Card, which is to be integrated with the SuperGold Card.

Part 1 clause 4:

- (a) On the whole NCWNZ members are happy with the idea of having a photo ID on the card, and most agreed that they would opt for this. They felt that this would give them greater security as it would make it very much harder for anyone else to use their card. It was also thought that it was a good idea that people could have the option of not having a photo if that was their wish.
- (b) As it is not stated what exactly would be contained in the microchip there was some concern about this being implemented. It is suggested in the Explanatory Notes that it would be the same information as is currently on the magnetic strip of the New Zealand Super Card. If this was all it contained that would be acceptable. We are aware that microchips can hold large amounts of information, so would like to be informed as to exactly what is to be included on this. As the photo is going to be optional, is the microchip also? It is a concern that this bill does not address these issues. Some of our members thought that microchip might be able to contain information such as the holder's blood group etc, which could be used in emergency situations.

Part 2 clause 7:

NCWNZ members felt that the availability of the Super Gold Card should be the same as presently on the New Zealand Super Card, 65 years, and for all New Zealanders. The actual wording in the bill (based principally on) gives some concern as to who might fall outside the criteria for the card.





NCWNZ feels that there is merit in having just the one card to replace the two existing cards as it can be confusing to some in the older age bracket to have to carry a number of cards.

As technology improves, so too, do the number of people who wish to use information for fraudulent purposes. The most vulnerable in society need to be protected as much as possible.

Christine Low
National President

Christine Rattray
Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee