



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Social Services Committee on the
Social Security Amendment 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 these societies and 150 other organisations and individual members. The function of NCWNZ 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.

General Comments

Since the original Social Security Act was passed in 1964 NCWNZ has witnessed many changes to the Act. We note that at this present time our rate of unemployment is down and we are pleased to see this. We are also very aware that because we have a growing aged population there is urgent need to see beneficiaries taking up suitable employment and being channelled in the right direction

Part 2 Provisions coming into force on 24 September 2007

Clause 22 Interpretation

Alteration to the definition of "Part-time work-tested beneficiary" in Section 3(1) of the Act. NCWNZ had very strong member response to extending the age of children (from over six to under 14 years, to now be over six and under 18) at home whilst the parent worked part-time. We agree that it is important the parents in this situation are able to arrange their working day so that they are able to be home out of school times.

Clause 23 New Section 1A and 1B inserted

1B Principles

NCWNZ agrees that the Principles as set out in this new section of the Bill are in principle sound and support them. However, we know that there are always exceptions to any rule as not everyone will fit into the provision, and exceptions will need to be provided for.

Clause 27, New Sections 60GAB & 60GAC inserted

60GAB Independent Youth Benefits

Our members appreciate that most young people on this Benefit would come from difficult backgrounds. This initiative, if carried out well, could be very helpful for them in gaining skills. We would especially like to see included in the 'approved activity' training information about how to gain employment, e.g. writing a CV, conducting themselves in an interview, and the importance of following instructions from those who will be charged with employing them. When the courses are completed we see the 'work focused activity' assisting the beneficiary to find out about what kind of work that they would be able to carry out. Work of interest to them would ensure that they remained employed.

NCWNZ believes that this would be the most important group to focus on when working to get people off the benefit and into meaningful work so that good work habits can be introduced at this younger age.





Our members recognise that there is no easy solution to helping people through the transition from unemployment to full employment. Many people who have been out of the workforce for some time worry about how they will cope in the world of technology. We are pleased to see conditions for training/retraining being put in place so that people can have confidence in themselves, and do well in the workplace.

It is important that there are sufficient, ongoing resources for all the training and rehabilitation programmes that will be run. We hope that long term funding is put into place.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this bill.

Christine Low
National President

Christine Rattray
Convenor, Social Issues Standing Committee