



**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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**S10.19**

Malcolm Duff  
General Manager Southern Region  
NZ Historic Places Trust  
P O Box 4403  
Christchurch 8140

**Submission on the Registration Report for a Historic Place Kate Sheppard House,  
Christchurch**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 46 nationally organised societies. NCWNZ has 26 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's function is to serve women, families and the community through research, study, discussion and action.

NCWNZ is pleased to support the NZHPT to Category 1 historic place status.

NCWNZ was formed in 1896 following the successful campaign for women's suffrage. It was decided by the women who had instigated the campaign that they required an ongoing forum to discuss issues of the day. This forum was described in newspapers of the day as the "Women's Parliament". Kate Sheppard became the first national president of NCWNZ.

The historic values of the house as outlined in the Registration Report are but an insight into part of New Zealand's recent history. It is to be expected that Kate Sheppard's house was the venue for many discussions and meetings on the formation of the National Council of Women of New Zealand and then subsequently the many issues the Council advocated for. As an example Kate Sheppard led a delegation to Prime Minister Seddon to urge women's rights to sit in parliament, serve as justices of the peace and receive equal pay for equal work. While not immediately successful these issues did become law.

NCWNZ considers the application for Kate Sheppard's House to Category 1 historic place status important recognition of a significant New Zealander and requests that the Registration proposal is accepted.

Elizabeth Bang, NCWNZ National President

