



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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13 February 2014

S14.02

## **Submission to the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee on the Land Transport Amendment Bill (175-1)**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 30 organisations affiliated at national level and a further 40 organisations affiliated at branch level. It has 22 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of these organisations, as well as individual members. NCWNZ's function is to represent and promote the interests of New Zealand women through research, discussion and action.

This submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Public Issues Standing Committee and the Parliamentary Watch Committee.

NCWNZ passed its first road safety resolution in 1931, and this was on the sentences for motorists who were responsible for accidents when driving under the influence of alcohol. NCWNZ updated its policy on the blood alcohol concentration for drivers in 2010:

That the NCWNZ urge the Government to lower the legal blood alcohol level for vehicle drivers from 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg per 100ml.

### **cl. 4. Section 11 amended (Drivers not to exceed specified alcohol limits)**

NCWNZ totally supports this amendment that means a person may not drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle if the proportion of alcohol in the person's blood exceeds 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

When surveyed in 2009, the membership supported a zero tolerance approach as in Sweden<sup>1</sup>.

### **cl. 5. Section 56 amended (Contravention of specified breath or blood-alcohol limit)**

Likewise, NCWNZ supports s.56(2) being amended so that a person commits an offence if the person drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a road while the proportion of alcohol in the person's blood exceeds 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. We see the proposal to introduce two levels of offence as detrimental to the requirement to reduce drinking and driving.

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<sup>1</sup> NCWNZ. (2009). Submission to the Ministry of Transport on the Discussion Document Road Safety Strategy to 2020. S09.31

## **cl. 6. Section 60 amended (Failure or refusal to permit blood specimen to be taken or to undergo compulsory impairment test).**

NCWNZ's policy supports compulsory testing:

That in view of the proved connection between road accidents and alcohol the Government be urged to make compulsory for drunken drivers breath tests, followed, if positive, by blood and urine tests. (15.1.8, 1968).

That NCWNZ urge the Government to legalise the taking of blood alcohol tests from all those involved in traffic accidents and to make the results of these tests known to the police. (15.1.9, 1971).

## **Schedule 2 Consequential amendments to Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999**

Should an infringement offence for driving with blood alcohol levels between 51 and 80mg per 100ml of blood be introduced, NCWNZ supports the amendments to Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999 as outlined in Schedule 2 of this Bill (ie a \$200 fine and a loss of 50 demerit points).

### **Conclusion**

As this Bill represents an important public health intervention it is important that its effectiveness is reviewed within five years of the Bill's implementation.

NCWNZ does not wish to appear before the committee to speak to this submission.

Barbara Arnold  
President

Beryl Anderson  
Convener, Public Issues Standing Committee