



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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Submission to the Ministry of Health on the discussion document **A new national drug policy for New Zealand**

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.

NCWNZ has policy relating to alcohol that dates from 1897, drugs from 1927 and tobacco also from 1927. A study group in 2003 researched young people and alcohol, and their paper is appended as their recommendations are still valid today. In the 10 years since its preparation, a number of the recommendations have come into force, eg the introduction of ID for young people when buying drinks on licensed premises, and local bodies developing policies on the control of alcohol in their communities.

Q 2. Where should we focus our efforts relating to supply control, demand reduction and problem limitation

These issues are inter-related. One area that NCWNZ believes should have a focus is advertising.

Q 4. What outcomes should the National Drug Policy aim for?

The outcome to aim for is the improved health and well-being of New Zealanders.

The timeframe when this discussion document was available precluded a consultation with our membership. However, NCWNZ has been provided with a copy of the submission from an affiliated organisation and supports the Women's Health Action Trust submission based on their recent research project on women and alcohol in New Zealand. It is essential that any drug policy include gender analysis and in seeking out the best outcomes for men and women be aware of the differences of socio-economic status, ethnicity, age, and gender identity.

Barbara Arnold
President

Beryl Anderson
Convener, Public Issues Standing Committee