



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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Submission to Statistics NZ on the New Zealand General Social Survey 2016 consultation

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 Public Issues Standing Committee after consultation with the membership of NCWNZ. The short response time meant only six branches and one individual responded, all based in the North Island.

Proposed content for the 2016 NZ General Social Survey

Which of the following topics is your first preference for the supplementary module content for NZGSS 2016?

Option 1: Civic and cultural participation

- One third of respondents favoured this option.

How would information from your preferred topic contribute to your work?

- It is important to have statistical information to support the work of informing people about issues and pending decisions, and to encourage civic participation with citizens feeling they can make a difference.
- Information about recreation and sport will assist in understanding the needs of sports and other clubs, including the need for affordable venues.
- Voluntary work and volunteers has a huge impact on women and their families with a high number of women contributing to and providing positive benefits to our community.
- The Census asks numerous questions on paid employment, little on voluntary work hours. There is a need to keep track of voluntary work; there is pressure to be in employment rather than engaging in the community.
- Women's work would be better valued and measured.
- When things are measured, people take notice. When actively measuring civic and cultural participation this gives it a status which it doesn't currently have.



- The diversity of New Zealand's population currently adds a degree of urgency to having the information. It is important that people have a sense of belonging which they could get from civic and cultural participation.
- Greater participation would also add value to community health and happiness, by developing tolerance and respect by deepening knowledge and contact. Meeting the needs of new immigrants is part of this issue although it might be better treated as a mini-supplement.
- We need to focus attention on cultural issues such as under-age marriages and the participation difficulties some professional people have in gaining acceptance of their qualifications so that they can work in a professional capacity in New Zealand.

What aspects of this topic would be of most value?

- Good statistics are needed to inform decision making.
- If not measured enough, people in authority take less notice. Needs to be highlighted to identify what people are doing, and how voluntary work contributes to the well-being of New Zealanders.
- Need to know what types of voluntary work are being undertaken – civic and cultural is broad. There is a need to know what activities are being undertaken.
- The number of people who are volunteering. Track that information with future planning, trends. How wide people spread themselves. Whether it is many people who may do only one little role, or a few people doing numerous roles.
- At what level is the work being undertaken (ie who is doing the ground work, who are in the governance roles).
- What is the boundary between voluntary and paid? Service groups are declining, how will this affect services and policy in the long run?
- How do you distinguish voluntary work, the degree of it, eg someone minding their grandchildren every week while mum works, with someone helping out at Riding for Disabled or the Cat Protection League?
- How are social media mechanisms being used in civic and cultural participation?
- Should people participate before ideas or after consultation? People wanting to participate like NCWNZ want to be consulted at the beginning. What is meant by participation? What is meant by consultation?

How frequently would you need this information?

- The 1998/99 Time Use Survey was well publicised; few people were aware of the 2009/10 survey.
- Every four years would be the maximum. We want a trend. Three data points are needed to make a trend. If there is movement in the same direction after three measurements, it is indicative of a trend. If the information is only collected every four years, it is twelve years before a trend can be identified.

What are the population groups of interest you would need this data to identify (eg ethnic groups, geographical areas, age groups, migrant status)?

- It is essential that this information is able to disaggregated by gender (sex) and disability as well as those mentioned. We need information relevant to all these



categories but especially for women and children, Maori, disabled people, non-English speakers and the elderly. If Post Offices close and rural delivery stops we would need specific information about the aging population and rural people who will become even more isolated.

- Within migrants, a group useful to identify are recent migrants.
- Whether people are participating as fully as they would like to or whether they are over worked.

Option 2: Housing and physical environment

- Just under half the respondents favoured this option.

How would information from your preferred topic contribute to your work?

- Housing and physical environment are both issues which impinge most heavily on health, general well-being and social outcomes.
- It's just starting to come to the fore that transience is among the very top contributors to our 'educational tail'.

What aspects of this topic would be of most value?

- The problems of the housing shortage in Christchurch and Auckland in particular, high deposits for first home buyers as well as high prices for renters, often leading to over-crowding, and the issue of sub-standard rental accommodation were all too urgent to be ignored right now in the fond hope that current actions were enough to solve these huge problems.
- Knowing how many different houses people have lived in.
- The type of rental accommodation (state or private rental)
- The composition of the occupants (eg number of adults, children, their relationship).
- We need to respond to and raise awareness of women's issues such as salary and wage gaps resulting in more young people staying with parents or renting and health issues such as obesity relating to housing and physical environment.
- Statistics about the issues as they relate to women and children and knowledge of living conditions.
- issues such as transport, employment and education go hand in hand with housing

How frequently would you need this information?

- In every survey.

What are the population groups of interest you would need this data to identify (eg ethnic groups, geographical areas, age groups, migrant status)?

- It is essential that this information is able to be disaggregated by gender (sex) and disability as well as those mentioned. We need information relevant to all these categories but especially for women and children, Maori, disabled people, non-English speakers and the elderly. If Post Offices close and rural delivery stops we would need specific information about the aging population and rural people who will become even more isolated.



Option 3: Other topic(s) you think we should measure in 2016.

Respondents mentioned these additional topics:

- Welfare
- Inequality
Needs information in more detail than the Census would provide.
- Foetal alcohol syndrome
- Sexual and reproductive health
Being aware of aspects of sexual and reproductive health would inform society about issues that are presently not well known and not handled well by the community
The following aspects could be researched
 - unwanted sexual overtures at work and socially
 - sexual harassment at work and socially
 - access to contraceptives
 - ability to say “no” to sexThe information should be collected in each survey to see if the position has improved.
- Employment

What are the population groups of interest you would need this data to identify (eg ethnic groups, geographical areas, age groups, migrant status)?

- It is essential that this information is able to be disaggregated by gender (sex) and disability as well as those mentioned. Within migrants, a group useful to identify are recent migrants.

Overall there is support for data gathering that informs the analysis of the health and general well-being of the people of New Zealand.

Other comments

NCWNZ takes this opportunity to draw to the attention of Statistics New Zealand the recommendations from the United Nations CEDAW Monitoring Committee. In its 2007 report¹, the Committee noted

“that insufficient statistical data disaggregated by sex in all areas covered by the Convention makes it more difficult to assess accurately the situation and progress of different groups of women with regard to all areas covered by the Convention.”

¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Thirty-ninth session, 23 July-10 August 2007. Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: New Zealand. Available 25 May 2014 from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fNZL%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en



In its 2012 report² the Committee identified two areas where disaggregated data should be collected:

25(e) To ensure systematic collection and publication of data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, type of violence, and by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim; to collect data on the number of women killed by partners or ex-partners; and to monitor the effectiveness of legislation, policy and practice relating to all forms of violence against women and girls.

37(c) Ensure the gender mainstreaming of policies relating to the process of recovery from the 2011 earthquake, and engage in analysis of their gender impact by using data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and other status.

Barbara Arnold
President

Beryl Anderson
Convener, Public Issues Standing Committee

² Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Fifty-second session, 9-27 July 2012. Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: New Zealand. Available 25 May 2014 from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=341&Lang=en