



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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Submission to the Government Administration Committee on the Gambling Amendment Bill (No. 3)

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 288 organisations affiliated at either the national level or to one of our 21 branches. In addition to our organisational membership, about 260 women are individual members of branches. 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 Social Issues Standing Committee and the Parliamentary Watch Committee, supported by established policy.

Introductory comment

Since 1902, NCWNZ has been concerned about gambling – more recently the increase and normalising of it, the proliferation and political influence of casinos, the widespread use of 'pokie machines' and the harm to families when a person becomes addicted.

In spite of the financial benefit to charities and nationally organised societies, class 4 gambling – 'pokies' – are a particularly pernicious problem in our society. Guarding against conflicts of interest and improving transparency are applauded, but this Bill also provides for the relaxation of some important controls, which NCWNZ does not support.

Clause 7 – Section 53 amended (Content and conditions of class 4 operator's licence) and

Clause 9 – Section 70 amended (Content and conditions of class 4 operator's licence)

NCWNZ is concerned that extending licence terms could open the door to abuses or corruption even in highly compliant licence holders or their employees. The essential oversight that accompanies issuing class 4 operator's licences should not be reduced in frequency simply to save money.

Clause 13 – Section 115 amended (Payment of commission prohibited) and

Clause 18 – Section 371 amended

In many affected areas the effort has been made to reduce the scourge of ‘pokies’ because of the detrimental effect on gambling addicts and their families. There is very good reason for the prohibition of commission payments to venue operators and this control should not be eroded in any way. There should be no encouragement whatsoever for venue operators to increase their turnover through class 4 gambling.

NCWNZ appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Rae Duff
National President

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Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee