



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to PHARMAC on the proposal to fully-subsidise
oestradiol transdermal patches without restriction through the
Invitation to Tender**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine O Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 288 organisations affiliated at either the national level or to one of our 20 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.

NCWNZ welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation process. This submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Health Standing Committee. Due to the limited time frame given for us to consider this proposal, it has not been possible for us to consult with all Health Standing Committee members, the corresponding members, or to obtain a response from branches or individual members.

However, the core members of the Health Committee for NCWNZ have met to consider the proposal and it is our opinion that oestradiol transdermal patches should be made freely available for all women in New Zealand. Although the three of us have not personally experienced the use of oestradiol transdermal patches, we do however, all know women who have, and we are aware of the tremendous beneficial difference these patches have made in their lives. We believe that oestradiol transdermal patches have been proved to be very effective and have enabled many New Zealand women to live well, while continuing to contribute fully to society.

NCWNZ supports the proposal to fully subsidise oestradiol transdermal patches.

Rae Duff
National President

Ailsa Stewart
Convener, Health Standing Committee