



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the State Services Commission on the
Open Government Partnership New Zealand:
National Action Plan 2016-18**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine O Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 283 organisations affiliated at either national level or to one of our 20 branches. In addition, about 260 women are individual members of branches. Collectively our reach is over 290,000 with many of our membership organisations representing all genders. NCWNZ's vision is a gender equal New Zealand and research shows we'll be better off socially and economically if we're gender equal. Through research, discussion and action, NCWNZ in partnership with others, seeks to realise its vision of gender equality because it is a basic human right. This submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Consumer Affairs/Economics Standing Committee.
- 1.2. Given the time available only a few NCWNZ members were contacted in relation to this submission. None of those members were aware of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) New Zealand: National Action Plan, which, we suggest, is probably typical of most of the country's population. This response is based on the nine submission questions outlined as consulted with these NCWNZ members.
- 1.3. NCWNZ recognises and supports the values outlined in the OGP as access to information, civic participation and public accountability align with those values that NCWNZ upholds.
- 1.4. Overall NCWNZ members had minimal awareness of the OGP and hence of the values enshrined in it, nor of any progress towards the identified targets in the OGP New Zealand Action Plan 2016-2018.
- 1.5. Of those targets we would seek clarification on "who" the information is to be understood by, i.e. who are the key stakeholders? And NCWNZ would seek further clarification on the forms that data has and is made available.

2. Consultation Questions:

- 2.1. Do you know about the OGP New Zealand National Action Plan 2016-2018?

None of the NCWNZ women were aware of the OGP New Zealand National Action Plan.

2.2. Do you know about Commitment 1: Open Budget?

None of the NCWNZ women were aware of the OGP Commitment 1: Open Budget, but did recognise this as being important.

2.3. Questions 3 to 8 were not relevant questions to respond to due to the response in question 2 above.

2.9. What alternative improvements do you suggest?

NCWNZ would recommend that wide community consultation and communication occur using channels that are accessible to the general public raising awareness of the OGP and in particular Commitment 1. This should be in various languages, platforms (Social Media, newspapers, radio, posters etc.) and not limited to immediate post and pre-budget periods.

NCWNZ also recommends the State Services Commission consider implementing Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) or Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)¹ in delivering on Commitment 1, noting the significant impact women have on the economy and as key decision makers in most household spending, education budgeting, health planning etc of families which are all influenced by many national budget decisions.

3. Conclusion

3.1. NCWNZ supports the values of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) New Zealand: National Action Plan 2016-18 and recommends further work to communicate these and engage wider involvement from the New Zealand population as the OGP targets are acted upon. NCWNZ would like to work in collaboration with the State Services Commission to utilize a gender awareness and strategy to achieve the targets.

Rae Duff
National President

Pip Jamieson
Convenor,
Consumer Affairs/Economic Standing Committee

¹ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/gender_manual_eng.pdf and <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2010/1/introduction-to-gender-responsive-budgeting-and-aid-effectiveness>