



16 March 2018

S18.08

Submission to the Education and Workforce Committee on the Education (Teaching Council of Aotearoa) Amendment Bill

- 1.1. The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 245 organisations affiliated at either national level or to one of our 19 branches. In addition, about 350 people are individual members. Collectively our reach is over 350,000 with many of our membership organisations representing all genders. NCWNZ's vision is a gender equal New Zealand and research shows we will be better off socially and economically if we are 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 Education Standing Committee and the Parliamentary Watch Committee, based on previous consultation with the membership of NCWNZ.
- 1.2. **NCWNZ members support this Bill to increase the democratisation of the Teaching Council of Aotearoa.**
- 1.3. At the time that the Education Council was established by the previous government, NCWNZ members expressed their concern at the way the Council members were all to be appointed by the government, that a majority of teachers on the Council was not guaranteed. Our submission¹ stated that NCWNZ members had a 'strong belief in the democratic principle of the right of people to be represented in governance' and that 'NCWNZ members are strongly opposed to a totally Minister-appointed governing Council.' Some members argued for minimum numbers of registered teachers on the Council, and some argued for a majority of the Council members to be registered teachers. Members felt that teachers should be able to directly elect members of the Council, rather than only being able to nominate. They also expressed support for the principles of democratic representation, and diversity on governing bodies. Our submission summarised the NCWNZ position as 'There was a strong sense that an Educanz governing council that was totally ministerial appointed would not achieve the objective of a professional body that would be owned and supported by teachers, and would not be seen as politically independent, regardless of the entity's legal status.'
- 1.4. This current Bill addresses NCWNZ members' concerns with the composition of the Teaching Council and the appointment of Council members. The name change from 'Education' to 'Teaching' more accurately reflects the purpose of the Council and therefore reduces the potential for confusion.

¹ S14.08 NCWNZ Submission to the Education and Science Select Committee on the Education Amendment Bill (No 2) 193-1 <http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S14-08-Education-Amendment-Bill-No-2.pdf>

- 1.5. One member has made the suggestion that a place on the Teaching Council could be reserved for a teacher from Māori-medium schools to ensure appropriate representation. A question was also raised on how to ensure that the voices of newer teachers are represented, as this can be overlooked when a Council is made up of senior teachers.
- 1.6. NCWNZ congratulates the government for a Bill that provides for greater democratic participation for teachers in Aotearoa.



Gill Greer
Chief Executive



Suzanne Manning
Convenor, Education Standing Committee