



25 March 2018

S18.10.1

## **Submission to the Social Services and Community Committee on Supplementary Order Papers 20, 21 and 22 on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill**

### **0. Introduction**

- 0.1. 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 supplementary submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Consumer Affairs & Economics Standing Committee and the Parliamentary Watch Committee.
- 0.2. On Wednesday 9th May the National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa (NCWNZ) presented an oral submission<sup>1</sup> to the Social Services and Community Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill. At that time the three Supplementary Order Papers (SOPs) in the name of Alfred Ngaro had not been considered by NCWNZ and hence it was not appropriate to comment on them. This submission is in response to the request from Committee member Louise Upston for NCWNZ's views on the SOPs.
- 0.3. As noted in the oral submission NCWNZ supports this Bill and endorses the principle that the best interests of the child be given priority over those of the parents or caregivers.

### **1. Comment on Supplementary Order Papers**

NCWNZ endorses the intent of these three Supplementary Order Papers in the aims that they appear to be achieving and in the avenue for maximum consideration be given to the forming of this Bill.

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<sup>1</sup> NCWNZ. 2018. Oral Submission to the Social Services and Community Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill by Judy Whitcombe and Helen Reilly on 9 May 2018. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Oral-Submission-on-Child-Poverty-Reduction-Bill-14-1.pdf>

### Supplementary Order Paper 20 New Clause 29A Child poverty-related indicators

NCWNZ endorses the proposal to add this clause and recognises the importance of identifying specific measures of poverty and that there be regular reporting against those measures. Of particular note NCWNZ endorses the sub-clause 29A (2) (a) regarding household material conditions, including parental employment. NCWNZ would encourage analysis of what constitutes a household. In today's society the reporting should be able to be disaggregated by all forms of family or whanau from same gender to mixed gender, ie it should be able to include single male parent, single female parent, mixed gender couples, same gender couples, and the various other forms of family existing in New Zealand today.

- 1.1. The proposed ten-year reporting framework against these measures (proposed 29A 3) is supported by NCWNZ on the understanding that this means reporting regularly (proposed 29A 1) within the ten year period and not after ten years.

### Supplementary Order Paper 21 New Clause 20A Target: overall

- 1.2. NCWNZ continues to support setting of relevant targets and measures and supports this proposal to set a three-year time frame for which a reduction of 100,000 children in material hardship is to be achieved. NCWNZ would see the three years and the 100,000 as minimums.

### Supplementary Order Paper 22 New Clause 3AA Principles

- 1.3. NCWNZ recognises the value of a social investment evaluation approach as outlined in this proposed new clause and supports adoption of some investment principles. However, NCWNZ would strongly urge that establishing such principles be a collaborative exercise whereby all stakeholders involved in the wellbeing of children had opportunity to contribute. This would allow for more comprehensive principles to be adopted that reflect not only economic, but social, cultural and environmental principles.

## 2. Conclusion

- 2.1. As stated in our submission<sup>2</sup>, NCWNZ supports this Bill that reflects the set measures, accountability and reporting by Government in order to reduce Child Poverty for all children in Aotearoa.
- 2.2. NCWNZ supports the intention of the three Supplementary Order Papers in the name of Alfred Ngaro and would encourage the Select Committee to further explore details within these, as outlined above.



Gill Greer  
Chief Executive



Pip Jamieson  
Consumer Affairs & Economics Convenor

<sup>2</sup> NCWNZ. 2018. Submission to the Social Services and Community Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill. S18.10. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/S18.10-Child-Poverty-Reduction-Bill.pdf>