



3 May 2018

S18.18

## **Submission to the Health Committee on the Health (National Cervical Screening Programme) Amendment Bill 26-1**

- 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 submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Parliamentary Watch Committee based on policy and previous submissions referred to below.
- 0.2. NCWNZ has policy<sup>1</sup> from 1987 and 1988 on screening programmes that support health promotion and preventive measures to reduce the incidence of cancer in women and endorsing the recommendations of the Cervical Cancer Inquiry 1988. NCWNZ has made submissions to legislation and discussion documents from 2000 to 2016.

### **1. Comment on clauses**

#### **Clause 4 Section 112A amended (Purpose)**

- 1.1. In a submission to the Ministry of Health NCWNZ discussed access to information on the National Cervical Screening Programme Register<sup>2</sup>. In general, access to information for auditors and researchers was supported. A concern was raised that those women concerned about confidentiality issues may opt off the register. It is important that medical notes incorporated into the register that have no relevance to the development of cervical cancer are not disclosed. Any research must be undertaken under a rigorous ethical regime.

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<sup>1</sup> NCWNZ. 2012. 115 years of resolution. <http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/115-years-Register-everything-2.pdf>. Resolutions 9.13.1.5, 9.13.3.2.

<sup>2</sup> NCWNZ. 2001. Submission to the Ministry of Health on the Discussion Document: Improving the National Cervical Screening Programme- Law Changes to Support the Audit of the Programme. S01.50. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S01.50-Improving-the-National-Cervical-Screening-Programme-Law-Changes-to-Support-the-Audit-of-the-Programme.pdf>

- 1.2. NCWNZ supports research to enhance knowledge of screening which may lead to the saving of lives<sup>3</sup>.

**Clause 5 Section 112B amended (Interpretation)**

- 1.3. The addition of definitions for cervical screening service, NCSP information and register information provide clarity.

**Clause 6 Section 112J replaced (Certain information held by NCSP must not be disclosed)**

- 1.4. NCWNZ supports the need for medical practitioners to be able to access to the register on behalf of a woman to provide cervical screening services to that woman. Issues of consent must be discussed at the initial consultation<sup>4</sup>.

**Clause 8 Section 112ZP amended (Offences)**

- 1.5. The rewording of s.112ZP(1) provides a much clearer explanation of an offence against the Health Act.

## 2. Conclusion

- 2.1. NCWNZ supports the regular review of screening programmes<sup>5</sup>. Over the years NCWNZ has supported the various changes and amendments to the legislation which governs the National Cervical Screening Programme. The amendments contained in this Bill will further improve the Screening Programme.

Gill Greer  
Chief Executive

Beryl Anderson  
Convenor, Parliamentary Watch Committee

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<sup>3</sup> NCWNZ. 2003. Submission to the Health Select Committee on the Health (Screening Programmes) Amendment Bill. S03.32. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S03.32-Health-Screening-Programmes-Amendment-Bill.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> NCWNZ. 2001. Submission to the Ministry of Health on the Discussion Document: Improving the National Cervical Screening Programme- Law Changes to Support the Audit of the Programme. S01.50. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S01.50-Improving-the-National-Cervical-Screening-Programme-Law-Changes-to-Support-the-Audit-of-the-Programme.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> NCWNZ. 2002. Submission to the National Health Committee on the Discussion Document: Screening Appraisal Criteria. S02.44. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S02.44-Screening-Appraisal-Criteria-National-Health-Committee-Discussion-Document.pdf>