



## National Council of Women of New Zealand

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

### Oral Submission to the Justice and Electoral Committee on the Family and Whānau Violence Legislation Bill 247-1

by Eva Hartshorn-Sanders and Bernice Williams on 22 March 2017

#### ***Justice and Electoral Select Committee***

Chairperson: **Sarah Dowie**, National Invercargill; Deputy Chair: **Jono Naylor**, National List; **Chris Bishop**, National List; **Paul Foster-Bell**, National List; **Maureen Pugh**, National List; **Louisa Wall**, Labour Manuwhera; **Jan Logie**, Green List; **Poto Williams**, Labour Christchurch East.

#### ***Questions***

**Paul Foster-Bell** (National List) asked for clarification of point regarding information sharing between agencies. Eva replied this was not part of NCWNZ Submission. Apology from Paul Foster-Bell; his question was for previous submitter.

**Paul Foster-Bell** (National List) asked for further clarification of NCWNZ's wish to retain the term Domestic in place of Family and Whānau violence in the Bill's title. In particular, he asked why NCWNZ would not be in favour of the word whānau, given its cultural significance for New Zealand.

**Answer:** Eva explained family/ whānau violence is seen as a subset of domestic violence, and some people e.g. young teens who might experience violence in a relationship but wouldn't consider themselves family, might not understand that they are protected by the legislation. Eva suggested the proposed wording would amount to a watering-down of effect, and even if it is only a perception, it is important to make clear the legislation's intent.

**Chris Bishop** (National List) asked (following on from previous question and response) "Does anything substantially turn on a word?"

**Answer:** Eva responded 'Yes'. Even if it's perception, the proposed move from the term 'Domestic Violence' to Family and Whānau Violence' makes it look as if there has been a change of meaning. The intent of the legislation is not clear.

**Louisa Wall** (Green List) asked for NCWNZ's thoughts on the relationship between sexual violence and domestic violence.

**Answer:** Eva replied that sexual violence may be considered another subset of domestic violence. Louisa further asked if the term should be included in the Bill's title. Eva replied that the law should spell out clearly that sexual violence is covered in the Bill. No need for it to be in title.

**Sarah Dowie** (National Invercargill) made reference to Jan Logie's Bill, Domestic Violence Victims' Protection Bill, and asked if NCWNZ would like to see its scope included in the Family and Whānau Violence Legislation Bill.

**Answer:** Eva replied that NCWNZ was eager to see it come into law and would support whichever way was the quickest for it to come into effect.

**Jan Logie** (Green List) asked a question regarding provisions in the Bill related to strengthening the response to breaches of protection orders, and the comment that NCWNZ had made in its submission on the original discussion document that the sentencing guidelines should have been reviewed at the same time.

**Answer:** Eva suggested that this would certainly need to happen once the new legislation had been enacted but best practice would have been to do it all at the same time.