



14 June 2019

S19.15

## **Submission to the Education and Workforce Committee on the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill 147-1**

### **Introduction**

- 0.1. The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing over 200 organisations affiliated at either national level or to one of our 15 branches. In addition, about 450 people are individual members. Collectively our reach is over 450,000 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 NCWNZ's Parliamentary Watch Committee based on existing policy and submissions.

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The intention of the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill is to reduce the widespread expectation that parents, guardians, whanau and families should pay voluntary contributions to schools for their child's education.
- 1.2. NCWNZ supports free education, with the first policy established in 1897<sup>1</sup> and more recently in 2003<sup>2</sup>. In 1999 NCWNZ undertook a survey on the collection of donations and activity fees, the data from which was used in 2002 in a master's thesis on user pays in education<sup>3</sup> that examined the practice of requesting and collecting money from parents and caregivers, compliance with Ministry of Education policy, the amounts of money raised locally by schools, and the impact of decile-rating.
- 1.3. In earlier submissions, NCWNZ has commented on the use of donations. In 2005<sup>4</sup> we stated that students were "open to discrimination where their parents cannot afford to pay donations".

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<sup>1</sup> NCWNZ. 2012. 115 years of resolution. 5.5.1. <http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/115-years-Register-everything-2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 5.5.11

<sup>3</sup> Latimer, SG. 2002. User-Pays in New Zealand's Free Compulsory Education System: A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Public Policy Massey University Albany, New Zealand. <https://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/6676>

<sup>4</sup> NCWNZ. 2005. Submission to the Education and Science Select Committee on the Education Amendment Bill 2004. S05.13. <https://www.ncwnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/S05.13-Education-Amendment-Bill-2004.pdf>

- 1.4. The issue of voluntary donations was raised by NGOs reporting to the CEDAW monitoring committee who commented in 2007<sup>5</sup> on “the voluntary nature of payments requested by schools and monitor schools’ practices regarding the collection of fees from parents”, in 2012<sup>6</sup> on “the voluntary nature of payments requested by schools”, and in 2018<sup>7</sup> on the “barrier regarding the obligation to pay so-called “voluntary donations” to schools”.

## 2. CI 4 New sections 79A and 79B inserted

- 2.1. NCWNZ is pleased to see the inclusion of these sections to the Act to enable the Minister to make discretionary grants to school boards so long as they do not seek or receive any solicited voluntary payment from parents.
- 2.2. It is disappointing to see the Explanatory Notes identify that this grant will only be made to Decile 1-7 schools. The grants should be available to all schools as the decile rating is not a reflection of the economic status of all children at a school.
- 2.3. would negatively affect borrowing and lending behaviour, creating unintended perverse outcomes such as reducing the availability of short-term lending. Regardless of this objection, NCWNZ considers that consumers need better protection in this area.



Pip Jamieson  
NCWNZ Board



Beryl Anderson  
Parliamentary Watch Committee

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<sup>5</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2007. Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: New Zealand. CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/6.  
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<sup>6</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2012. Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/7.  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fNZL%2fCO%2f7&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fNZL%2fCO%2f7&Lang=en)

<sup>7</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2018. Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of New Zealand. CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/8.  
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