

Ministry for Women's Weekly Report to the Minister for Women

As at 6 December 2017

Part 1: Current priority outcome areas

Women's skills, employment, and income

Funding for 'He Poutama Rangatahi/Youth Employment Pathways' (Budget Sensitive)

We have been consulted by MBIE officials on a paper led by the Minister of Employment and the Minister of Regional Economic Development, seeking Cabinet agreement to the appropriation of funding (up to \$5 million by March 2017 and \$10 million by the end of 2018) to support implementation of the He Poutama Rangatahi/Youth Employment Pathways initiative.

This initiative will support communities to match rangatahi (young people) who are at risk of long term unemployment with existing and future job opportunities in Northland/Taitokerau, the Eastern Bay of Plenty, Te Tairāwhiti/East Coast and Hawkes Bay. Most of these rangatahi are Māori, and many of them are women with caregiving responsibilities. Our work interviewing mothers in Whangarei and South Auckland, and Te Puni Kōkiri's research, confirms that young mothers in these circumstances are highly motivated to get trained and find good work to support themselves and their children. The Minister of Employment has identified that he will work with you as Minister for Women on this strategy.

We recommend you support this paper.

Meeting with Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) officials

We met with TEC to discuss our respective work programmes, reporting and monitoring mechanisms for the Māori and Pacific Trades Training programme, and how we can work together in 2018. We advised that our ongoing focus has been to encourage TEC and Ministry of Education officials to clearly identify the very positive 'returns on investment' made for these Māori and Pasifika learners and the explicit requirement to report outcomes for women learners.

Closing the Public Service Gender Pay Gap

We would welcome a chance to discuss these issues with you at our next officials meeting.

Section 9(2)(h) - which relates to the maintenance of legal professional privilege

Pay equity article

Section 9(2)(a) - which relates to the privacy of natural persons

Women's safety from violence**Next steps following the launch of the digital harm research**

The launch of the digital harm research received good coverage in the media, and good feedback from our stakeholders working in this area. This coverage is increasing visibility for digital harm as an issue, and encouraging discussion on solutions.

On Wednesday, 6 December 2017 Netsafe launched its report '*Teens and "sexting" in New Zealand: Prevalence and attitudes*'. The "sexting" report is part of our ongoing partnership with Netsafe exploring young people's experiences of digital risk and harm. We expect further reports to be released by Netsafe on related issues in 2018.

Youth Court meeting on female offenders

We attended a cross-agency meeting with Youth Court judges about young female and gender diverse offenders. The meeting was organised by the Principal Youth Court Judge, Judge Walker, in response to growing concern amongst the Youth Court judges about young female offenders. The discussion centred on the backgrounds of family violence, sexual abuse and care and protection orders of many of the offenders. Each social sector agency was asked what their agency is doing about young female offenders; we advised that we are currently scoping research in this area. We can provide you with information on other agencies' approaches, should you wish. The group will meet again in six months.

Women in leadership

Section 9(2)(f)(iv) which relates to the maintenance of constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

Nominations service update

We provided nominations to the Health Research Council and Children's Autism Foundation.

We met with Auckland Council staff to discuss opportunities to enhance the quality of their candidate database with the potential to make links to our own nominations database.

We attended the Institute of Directors' Bold Steps conference to promote the nominations service and connect with women interested in leadership and governance roles. Keynote speakers included leader and professional director Joan Withers, Spark Digital CEO Jolie Hodson and Tech Futures Lab founder Frances Valentine.

Other matters

New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) Policy Benchmarking Awards

On Tuesday 5 December we attended NZIER's annual awards for public sector policy advice. Agencies provide NZIER with a representative sample of Ministerial briefings and receive guidance on what is working well and what areas there are for improvement. This year we were ranked as second runner-up (behind Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence). We have climbed 10 places in the rankings compared to 2016's result.

Legislating to Drive Action to Reduce Child Poverty (Budget Sensitive)

We were consulted by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on the Prime Minister's Cabinet paper to introduce legislation that will require all Governments to:

- set and publish longer-term (ten years) and intermediate targets and measures of child poverty,
- report each year on progress towards the targets and,
- publish strategies to improve children's wellbeing.

The proposed legislative framework will help ensure ongoing Governments are transparent and held to account in reducing child poverty. This paper was approved by Cabinet Business Committee on 6 December.

We advised that sole parent families (of which 85 percent are mother-led) have higher rates of child poverty and persistent material hardship. Māori and Pasifika populations are disproportionately represented among these families. Collection of administrative data that enables breakdown by age, gender, ethnicity, family indicators and hours worked is critical to the development of strategies and approaches to reduce poverty. We recommend that you send a note of support to the Prime Minister for tabling this paper. We can provide a draft letter, should you require it.

Part 2: Operational matters

9(2)(f)(iv) which relates to the maintenance of constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

Part 3: Upcoming briefings and reports

Subject	Log number	Date due	Status
Options on how to measure the gender pay gap	MW 17-18 0125	6 December 2017	Sent
Memo on appointments process for NACEW	MW 17-18 0133	6 December 2017	Sent
Nominations forms for Queen's Birthday Honours – Part 1	MW 17-18 0096	8 December 2017	In progress
Target options for getting more women on State sector boards and committees	MW 17-18 0124	8 December 2017	In progress
The Ministry's role in the domestic and sexual violence Justice system	MW 17-18 0134	8 December 2017	In progress
Meeting with Permanent Representative to the UN, Craig Hawke	MW 17-18 0130	11 December 2017	In progress
Meeting on SSC's Diversity and Inclusion plans	MW 17-18 0131	11 December 2017	In progress
Memo with International Women's Caucus meeting minutes	MW 17-18 0135	13 December 2017 (tbc)	In progress
Swedish model of paid parental leave	MW 17-18 0119	13 December 2017	In progress
[REDACTED]	MW 17-18 0132	14 December 2017	In progress
Nominations forms for Queen's Birthday Honours – Part 2	MW 17-18 0116	15 December 2017	In progress

Part 4: Recent correspondence

New ministerial correspondence

Nil 9(2)(f)(iv) which relates to the maintenance of constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

Correspondence between Ministers

Nil

Minister and Ministry-initiated correspondence

Nil

New Parliamentary Questions

Subject	Log number	Date due	Status
Questions regarding Minister's approach to online harassment (three questions)	15818, 15819, 15841	6 December 2017	Sent
Question regarding work on research or policy development on Labour-New Zealand First coalition document	18520	11 December 2017	In progress
Question regarding Minister's meetings with local government officials	18667	11 December 2017	In progress

New OIA/Ombudsman/Privacy Act requests to the Ministry

Nil

Part 5: Cabinet papers consulted on

Our advice on two papers we were consulted on this week is covered in Part 1 of this report.

Part 6: Upcoming publications and events in the next three months

Publication/event	Date	Agency lead
Survey/engagement – trialling an approach to get women's voices on a particular topic	January (tbc)	Ministry for Women and Ministry of Health
Pānui newsletter	January	Ministry for Women
Release on Ministry website of gender pay gap tools and background information	January	Ministry for Women
Diverse profiles: launch of up to five profiles of diverse women	January/February	Ministry for Women (in partnership with SUPERdiverse WOMEN)
Release of rapid literature review on effective family violence services for women, particularly Māori women	January/February (tbc)	Ministry for Women
Commissioned research led by AUT and Motu (Sin and Pacheco) on the long-term economic effect of having children, especially relating to the gender pay gap	February (tbc)	Ministry for Women

Released under the Official Information Act 1982


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Hon Julie Anne Genter
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Date: