

**Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women  
Weekly Report  
to the Minister for Women**

---

**As at 30 September 2021**

## **Current priority outcome areas**

### **Women's Employment Action Plan (WEAP) update**

Today, 30 September 2021, we are sending the Cabinet paper, *Building back better for women: Improving women's wellbeing and employment outcomes in response to COVID-19*, and supporting papers for a two-week ministerial and agency consultation (30 September 2021 to 13 October 2021). We will provide you with a revised Cabinet paper by 15 October 2021 for your approval to lodge on 20 October 2021 for the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee meeting on 27 October 2021.

We had a preliminary meeting with the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (CTU) to arrange the agenda for the November 2021 meeting with the CTU Women's Network. We are also providing the CTU with information on the Women's Employment Action Plan (WEAP), including questions members can respond to, for their other sector group networks (Māori, Pacific, Youth, Rainbow, diverse cultures, and workers with disabilities). We met with Shama Ethnic Women's Trust (Shama) to talk about the WEAP and the possibility of holding a focus group of ethnically diverse women in Hamilton. We worked with Shama on the engagement for Te Aorerekura The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

On 29 September 2021 we met with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Te Puni Kōkiri to discuss actions for Wāhine Māori that cut across both the WEAP and Māori Employment Action plans. We will arrange similar meetings with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples on the Pacific Employment Action Plan and the Ministry for Ethnic Communities on the Ethnic Employment Action Plan.

The Ministry also attended the Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy Reference Group (MBIE, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Tertiary Education Commission, Treasury, NZ Police, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, and the Human Rights Commission) meeting to provide an update on the WEAP. There is a cross-agency Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy work programme, which covers actions for education and training and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), employment, training and inclusion.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

## **Mana Wāhine Roopū update**

*(some content shared with Minister Jackson)*

### **Tūāpapa hearings 4–6**

The Joint Roopū is keeping in close contact with the Waitangi Tribunal as we await further details of the remaining three tūāpapa hearings through to the end of February 2022. The current COVID-19 levels have impacted on claimant counsel, claimant availability and any future use of the related takapou whāriki process (video records of some wāhine Māori korero). Options appear to include postponing hearings or shifting to a virtual environment. We will continue to update you should you be available to attend the 4th tūāpapa hearing from 22 to 26 November 2021 in Whakatāne.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

### **Additional funding for Māori health providers to support their communities during the COVID-19 response**

Following the announcement on 22 September 2021 by Minister Henare of the additional \$38 million funding for Māori health providers to support their communities during the COVID-19 response, the Joint Roopū had a follow-up discussion with Ministry of Health counterparts. Our interest was to gauge whether there was any specific funding for wāhine Māori in this allocation (as part of our work across agencies to lift outcomes for wāhine Māori). We note that, while there is no funding ring-fenced for wāhine Māori, providers will have the flexibility to use the funding to meet their needs and the needs of their communities. The funding is broken down into:

- \$14 million to increase equitable access to vaccinations
- \$17 million to support Māori health providers to adapt and maintain their existing services
- \$3 million in mental health funding
- \$2 million to support providers to manage the long tail of the response.

We will continue to monitor this funding and others as part of our broader work across agencies to support the lifting of outcomes for wāhine Māori.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

### **Other news**

- On 29 September 2021 the Roopū Director met with Dellwyn Stuart, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA, to provide an update on the Mana Wāhine Kaupapa Inquiry. In addition, we discussed the YWCA pay gap reporting campaign.
- This week Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko i te Ora, the Māori Women's Welfare League, celebrated its 70th birthday. Chair Prue Kapua gave some media interviews referring to the League's aim of government seeking advice from the League on issues impacting wāhine Māori and their whānau, respecting that advice and involving the League in decision-making. These points and the wider goal of the League to continue to be a voice for wāhine Māori are relevant as part of your role as Co-Lead Minister of the Mana Wāhine Kaupapa Inquiry and the Joint Roopū engagement with the League as claimants.
- Earlier this week media covered the high numbers of wāhine Māori at the frontline in communities assisting with Covid-19 vaccinations, testing and related support work. Frustration was expressed at not being involved in the early planning stages of the health response and the value add Māori providers can contribute. Similar points were noted by some witnesses at the second tūāpapa hearing in relation to previous pandemics. We also note that Te Puni Kōkiri is leading

the Karawhiua campaign across Māori communities to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. This programme is being co-delivered by Te Hiringa Hauora (Health Promotion Agency) and supported by the Ministry of Health.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

## **The contribution of all women and girls is valued**

### **ACC changes to cover birth injuries**

Proposed ACC changes recently announced by Minister Sepuloni will mean that a number of injuries associated with childbirth will be covered by the scheme. Currently, only birth injuries that are the result of a treatment injury are covered. ACC has proposed that a list, developed in consultation with ACC and medical experts, of seven defined physical birth injuries, be included in the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

Minister Sepuloni has said this would improve gender balance, fairness and equity in the ACC scheme assist 17,000–18,000 women each year, and cost ACC around \$25 million annually.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

## **All women and girls are financially secure and can fully participate and thrive**

### **Re-opening the COVID-19 Community Fund**

As at 29 September 2021, the COVID-19 Community Fund has received approximately 100 applications. We expect a large number of applications will be lodged very close to the deadline of noon on 1 October 2021. The Ministry has confirmed the non-government assessment panel members, including two panel members from last year to provide bridging and consistency to the assessment process. **s 9(2)(a)**

**s 9(2)(a)** The Ministry is currently securing another government panellist, likely from the community/funding areas of either the Department of Internal Affairs or the Ministry of Social Development. After the deadline closes, the Ministry will undertake an eligibility assessment and the eligible applications will be provided to panel members as the starting point of the panel assessment process. We anticipate that the panel will meet in the middle part of October 2021 – exact timing yet to be confirmed.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

**s 9(2)(f)(iv)**

*Tracking log item: n/a*

**Gender Pay Taskforce | Te Rōpū Whakarite Utu Ira Tangata update**

*(content shared from the Taskforce)*

***Cabinet Paper “Pay Equity in the Funded Sector”***

The Cabinet paper “Pay equity in the Funded Sector” went through Cabinet Committee on the 23 September 2021. The paper amends the existing Framework for Oversight and Support of pay equity in the Funded sector to mitigate or eliminate barriers to the progress of pay equity claims in the Funded sector. The paper was approved by Cabinet on 27 September 2021.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

**System leadership, impact, and reputation****International*****APEC Women and the Economy Forum***

The APEC Women and the Economy Forum was held on Friday night, 24 September 2021. We have received very positive feedback from counterparts on the success of the meeting. We are confident that across the APEC membership, there is widespread agreement on the importance of centring women and girls in COVID-19 recovery work, with many initiatives already underway. Minister Radhakrishnan delivered the New Zealand intervention, which was well-received. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will prepare a formal message reporting on the meeting to send to posts, and we will have a debrief session with the MFAT APEC team on 1 October 2021. We are preparing a thank you letter for you to send to Rt Hon Helen Clark to thank her for her participation.

*Tracking log item: MW 21-22 0108*

**System leadership*****Education and Workforce Select Committee – inquiry on pay transparency***

Traci Houpapa, Chair, National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women (NACEW), was asked to present to the Select Committee on 29 September 2021 on pay transparency. This followed a presentation by Saunoamaali'i Dr. Karanina Sumeo, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, last week. Other presenters included Diversity Works and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions/Public Service Association. We will provide you with the key points from the Select Committee.

*Tracking log item: n/a*

**Operational matters****Annual Report and Statement of Intent**

The Ministry's financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021 have been signed off as an unqualified report by Audit New Zealand. We will provide you with a copy of the Ministry's Annual Report and the new Statement of Intent on 4 October 2021. We are currently carrying out the final checks on both these documents, before printing and presentation to Parliament later in the year.

*Tracking log item: MW 21-22 0104*

## **Ministerial Servicing**

### Policy advice in progress

Type	Subject	Log number	Due date
Briefing	Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women – Designed version of the Annual Report 2021 and Statement of Intent 2021–25	MW 21-22 0104	4 October 2021
Memo	Agency reports on the social impacts of COVID-19 on women	MW 21-22 0109	14 October 2021
Briefing	October baseline update – Ministerial submission 2021	MW 21-22 0091	15 October 2021
Ministerial meeting	Meeting with Minister Davidson, 28 October 2021	MW 21-22 0004	20 October 2021
Memo – joint with TPK	Meeting with Minister Jackson, 28 October 2021	MW 21-22 0029 (TPK 43663)	20 October 2021

### Event and meeting briefings in progress

Type	Subject	Log number	Due date
Event briefing and speech	Celebration of the International Day of Rural Women, Tauranga, 15 October 2021	MW 21-22 0101	6 October 2021
Event briefing and speech	Gender Pay Gap Action Plan launch 2021 (November) and the Te Orowaru launch (27 October 2021)	MW 21-22 0105	6 October 2021
Event briefing	Women in Leadership Summit New Zealand, Auckland, 2 November 2021	MW 21-22 0102	26 October 2021

### Ministerial correspondence in progress

Subject	Log number	Due date
Thank you letter – the Right Honourable Helen Clark – Women and the Economy Forum (WEF)	MW 21-22 0108	30 September 2021
Letter of congratulations, Graduate Women Wellington celebrating 100 years	MW 21-22 0110	12 October 2021



WPQs and Official Information Act requests in progress

Subject	Log number	Due date (to Minister)	Due date (to requester)
<b>Written Parliamentary Questions</b>			
44142 (2021) – Has the Minister and/or their reporting departments, Crown entities and organisations, if any, signed up to the Government Data Protection and Use Policy (DPUP); if so, when and if not, why not?	MW-WPQ 21-22 0018	4 October 2021	6 October 2021
44163 (2021) – Does the Minister or their reporting departments, Crown entities and organisations, if any, adhere to the Government Data Protection and Use Policy principles (DPUP); if so, when did they begin adhering and if they do not, why not?	MW-WPQ 21-22 0019	4 October 2021	6 October 2021
<b>Ministerial OIAs</b>			
Carbon Neutrality Project – Victoria University of Wellington Climate Clinic	MW-OIA 21-22 0008	13 October 2021	20 October 2021
<b>Ministry OIAs</b>			
OIA response statistics	MW-OIA 21-22 0006	4 October 2021	11 October 2021
Māori Language Plan	MW-OIA 21-22 0007	4 October 2021	11 October 2021

**Publications and events in the next six months**

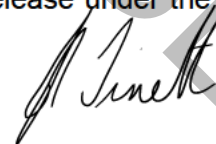
Publication/event	Date	Agency lead
Launch of the new Pay Equity work assessment tool, National Library	27 October 2021	Gender Pay Taskforce
Launch of the Gender Pay Gap Action Plan	16 November 2021	Gender Pay Taskforce

**Proactive release**

Within three months of the date of this Weekly Report, it will be considered for release under the Ministry's proactive release of documents policy.



**Kellie Coombes**  
Secretary for Women



**Hon Jan Tinetti**  
Minister for Women

Date: 30/09/2021