

10 February 2023

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 29 December 2022 for:

1. *Why is there no Ministry of Men?*
2. *Does this government recognise that men are not doing well in many areas (education, health, life expectancy)?*
3. *Why are men still being left to fend for themselves while women have had a Ministry advocating for them for nearly forty years? Is this an example of "equality"?*
4. *Why are there still dedicated educational programmes for women when they are clearly doing better than men?*
5. *Does the government care that men and boys are struggling? How do they show this care?*
6. *When does the government intend to create a Ministry of men?*

For clarity, I will respond to all your questions in one.

Manatū Wāhine | the Ministry for Women exists because there are still inequalities experienced by women and girls in Aotearoa New Zealand. There have been improvements in women's educational attainment, labour force participation, and support for women to take on paid work. Higher levels of qualifications have not translated into more equitable earnings or labour market outcomes for women. The annual earnings of graduate men steadily outpace those for women graduates, including those with the same qualifications. Lower lifetime earnings for women have impacts on women's health, wellbeing, economic independence, and ability to save for retirement.

Women continue to experience higher rates of family violence and sexual violence victimisation than men. One in three New Zealand women experience family violence at the hands of a partner during their lives. One in three New Zealand women experience sexual violence during their lives. The cost of violence against women is significant and at all levels of society.

When women thrive, this has a positive impact on the economy, and the wider community.

Decisions regarding the establishment of new government agencies are matters for the executive branch of Government. You can find out more information on how the public sector is organised on Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website here:

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/system/system-architecture-and-design/how-the-public-sector-is-organised/>

Thank you for taking the time to write and for your interest in gender equality. Please note that this response, with your personal details redacted, may be published on the Ministry's website. If you have any concerns or comments related to this, please let us know by emailing [ministerialservicing@women.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialservicing@women.govt.nz), within two weeks of the date of this letter.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision on your request regarding the establishment of a Ministry for Men. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



**Kellie Coombes**  
Secretary for Women