

26 April 2023

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of 7 April 2023 for:

*Can you please provide for me the definition your organisation uses to identify a woman, when the definition became official, the process you used to agree that definition and what groups and individuals, if any, you consulted with when creating the definition. I am not seeking names of private individuals, however if any prominent individuals, especially if they have spoken publicly regarding how a woman is defined, were consulted, please provide their names.*

Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women represent the interests of, and support the rights and wellbeing of, all women. Along with the Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) we recognise the right to self-identify and that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have the same human rights and freedoms.

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. 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