

Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Women

As at 7 July 2023

Current priority outcome areas

System leadership – national

Pay Transparency

The draft Cabinet Paper, Development of a Pay Transparency System – Phase One, is on track for the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee (SWC) on 19 July 2023. A supporting communications plan and talking points will be provided to you and Minister Radhakrishnan. MBIE and the Ministry are now working on the second phase of this work focusing on compliance, the regulatory function and ethnicity. We note that Mind the Gap has released a media statement on 6 July supporting work to address pay gaps and the need for legislation.

Update on the Manatū Wāhine Physical Activity and Wellbeing Fund

MBIE has approved an additional \$500,000 in funding for the Manatū Wāhine Physical Activity and Wellbeing Fund after the Ministry received more than \$4.27 million in applications. This brings the overall amount being distributed to \$1,000,000.

Manatū Wāhine is working closely with the assessment panel to confirm all the successful applicants by Friday 14 July 2023. Approximately 123 applications have been provisionally approved for funding across a diverse range of community organisations and groups.

We will report to you in the coming weeks with a final list of funded applicants, and an initial analysis of the funded activities.

Public Sector Boards Online Webinar

The Ministry co-organised and co-hosted an online webinar on Public Sector Boards on Thursday 29 June 2023, alongside Te Kawa Mataaho - Public Service Commission (PSC), Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Whaikaha Ministry for Disabled People and Ministry for Pacific Peoples. The session was aimed at people registered on a nominating agency database who were starting their governance journey.

PSC gave an overview of the public sector board appointments system and the Crown Entity Resource Centre work. Colleagues from Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Transport spoke about the appointing agencies processes, and what they look for when assessing applications.

The session received positive feedback, with over 70% of participants either very satisfied or extremely satisfied and 99% would recommend the training to others. We will continue to collaborate with other agencies to run future workshops.

Health Strategies

The Health strategies (including the Women's Health Strategy) were agreed by Cabinet this week, and are now due to be published on Wednesday 12 July. Manatū Hauora received a broad range of comments during consultation, and made a series of additions and amendments to the documents to incorporate these views in the final papers. They are now developing the approach to the next Government Policy Statement on Health, which will set expectations for the coming

three years from July 2024. We will continue to support this work and contribute a gender lens into the development of the Health Policy Statement.

System leadership – international

Gender budgeting update – Meeting with the OECD

On 5 July 2023, Ministry officials met with Ms Scherie Nicol, who leads the OECD's Gender Budgeting work and coordinates the annual OECD Gender Budgeting conference (the most recent of which took place on 14-15 June in Dublin, Ireland). The introductory meeting was the first meeting between the Treasury, Ministry for Women and the OECD on gender budgeting. It was an opportunity to discuss New Zealand's recent gender budgeting work (both the pilot and Budget '23 exercise), alignment between wellbeing budgeting and gender budgeting, and challenges (including embedding gender budgeting to ensure longevity, and making sure that gender budgeting is not a 'tick box' exercise).

She provided insight into other OECD country approaches, including:

- Finland's gender budgeting evaluations
- Austria's regulatory impact assessments (similar to New Zealand's approach to embed distributional analysis), and
- Australia's new criteria to determine which Budget initiatives are required to do gender budgeting.

Representatives from the United States of America attended the conference, showing a renewed interest in this space. Other OECD countries are involved in discussions on terminology around gender and women, and navigating the socio-political challenges relating to this.

The Ministry will reach out to our international counterparts for further insights as we review the Gender budgeting exercise and next steps for Budget 2024. Next year's annual conference is expected to be in June, with a host yet to be confirmed.

Million-dollar funding boost for gender equality in the Pacific

Australia and New Zealand will fund \$3 million Fijian dollars to support the [Pacific Feminist Fund](#) (AUD \$1.171 million and NZD \$1 million respectively). The fund is the first regional women's fund solely for the Pacific, which will help strengthen gender equality and women's rights organisations across the Pacific region. Support for grassroots women's organisations "can play a crucial role in achieving transformative change at the local level for women and girls in all their diversity", as noted by [Ambassador Louisa Wall](#) in the press release.

The Pacific Feminist Fund officially launched in May 2023 and will assist 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. It focuses on grant making, 'accompaniment' or capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, and investment with a gender-lens. It is registered as a Charitable Trust Board in New Zealand.

"Fair chance for all" – Gender impacts

A new report by the [New Zealand Productivity Commission](#) looks to break the cycle of persistent disadvantage in Aotearoa New Zealand. You received a copy of the report through your Child

Poverty Reduction portfolio, in which you also met with the Productivity Commission. The inquiry into economic inclusion and social mobility, focuses on the drivers and underlying dynamics of systemic and persistent disadvantage in Aotearoa, and utilises existing wellbeing frameworks (He Ara Wairoa, the Living Standards Framework, and the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy) in its approach.

The findings are particularly relevant to wāhine and kōtiro, including gender-diverse people, who often experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers that can lead to multiple and persisting levels of disadvantage. The report acknowledges:

- “discrimination and the ongoing impact of colonisation” as one of four key drivers, where “institutional racism and discrimination” continues to disadvantage Māori and other groups including Pacific people, women, migrants, rainbow communities, sole parents and disabled people.
- gender and ethnic pay gaps, and pay gaps for disabled peoples, which lead to inequitable outcomes and makes it harder for affected groups to access the same opportunities.

The report includes several recommendations – currently gender neutral – which are relevant to women and girls, including a ‘Social Inclusion Act’, complementary to the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018, to add accountability for the Government to address persistent disadvantage, and recommendations for the Government to invest in data collection. Disaggregated data, by both gender and ethnicity, is crucial to track progress towards gender equality in New Zealand and identify areas that require further investment to improve outcomes for women and girls.

The report was publicly launched on 20 June, and a more detailed report that includes quantitative analysis, will be released in late July.

Financial support for women and girls in Afghanistan

New Zealand [announced](#) on 6 July 2023 a further \$11 million in funding to support the United Nations’ response to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. This includes \$2 million to support the UN Population Fund’s (UNFPA) provision of critical reproductive health and psychosocial assistance to affected communities, especially women and girls. \$2 million will go towards UNICEF to support the provision of health, nutrition and sanitation assistance for children, young people and families. This brings New Zealand’s total support for Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 to \$24 million.

Ministerial Servicing

Policy advice and reports in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Briefing	Post-Hearing Estimates Questions 2023/24	MW 23-24 0003	12/07/2023

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Aide Memoire	Meeting with Sri Lankan delegation of female MPs, 3 August 2023	MW 23-24 0004	12/07/2023

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Aide Memoire	Ministers' Meeting: Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence, 17 July 2023	MW 22-23 0222	12/07/2023
Aide Memoire	Minister meeting with PSA National Secretaries, 18 July 2023	MW 22-23 0331	12/07/2023
Aide Memoire	Joint Agency FIFA Women's World Cup update	MW 23-24 0002	12/07/2023

Ministerial letters and responses		
Subject	Log number	Due date
NONE		

Official Information Act requests in progress			
Subject	Log number	Due to Min's office	Due to requester
Ministry OIA requests			
9(2)(a) requests [REDACTED] media	MW DOIA 24-24 0001	24/07/2023	31/08/2023
Minister OIA requests			
NONE			

WPQs in progress			
Subject	Log number	Due to Min's office	Due to requester
NONE			

Proactive releases in progress	
Title	Planned release date
Fortnightly Reports – May 2023	31 July 2023
Fortnightly Reports – June 2023	31 August 2023
Fortnightly Reports – July 2023	30 September 2023

Publications and events in the next six months

Publications or event	Date	Agency lead
Nil	N/A	N/A

Proactive release

This Weekly Report will be considered for release within three months of publication, under the Ministry's 'proactive release of documents' policy.



Kellie Coombes
Secretary for Women



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister for Women

Date: 09/07/2023