

# Fortnightly Report Minister for Women

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9 May 2025

## Current priority outcome areas

### Strong engagement with 'Free to Lead' toolkit following its launch

The launch of the new 'Free to lead' toolkit on Thursday 1 May received good national media coverage. RNZ covered the launch in its news bulletins, and its 'The Detail' podcast featured interviews with Auckland councillor, Josephine Bartley, and broadcaster, Polly Gillespie, exploring the issue of online harm for women in public life. Coverage and in-depth interviews with women who shared their experiences as part of the toolkit also ran on TVNZ's Breakfast, More FM, in The Post and on the Stuff website.

The toolkit received strong engagement across social media, particularly on Instagram and LinkedIn. The Ministry's accompanying launch videos have reached over 20,000 views on Instagram.

On LinkedIn, the launch generated discussion and a high number of reposts. Notable engagement came from Women on Boards NZ, Global Women, TUANZ, the Government Women's Network, Zonta Club of Wellington, government agencies and the women featured in our video series.

### Insights from Canadian experts on supporting women entrepreneurs

On Friday 2 May 2025, the Ministry for Women and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment met virtually with Dr Wendy Cukier, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Toronto Metropolitan University, to discuss different approaches and interventions to support women entrepreneurs.

Dr Cukier leads the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, and shared context on Canadian government initiatives, including the Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy, that have helped to almost double the rate of women entrepreneurs in Canada.

Key points from the meeting included:

- Evidence that the success rate and return on investment of women-led investment consortiums outperforms other funding bodies.
- Women-led business tend to have strong community and social benefits which can be undermeasured.
- Media analysis undertaken by the Institute shows that ideas around what innovation and entrepreneurship could look like has shifted over the years, but stereotypes remain.

The Ministry is continuing to explore possible activities and actions to support women entrepreneurs, including working with organisers of the upcoming Electrify Aotearoa event in July.

### Menopause Forum

Ministry officials attended a Menopause Forum at Parliament on Tuesday 6 May 2025. You had met with some of the event organisers and speakers earlier in the day. Attendees included Members of Parliament, such as Health Select Committee Chair Sam Uffindell and Catherine Wedd who hosted the event. Speakers included Nikki Bezzant (author and advocate), Dr Linda Dear (menopause doctor), Sarah Hogan (author of NZIER's report on menopause *The Silent Transition*), and Dr Sylvia Rosevear (Gynaecologist and President of the Australasian Menopause Society). The speakers presented information on menopause, including its health and economic impacts, and called for better information and support for women experiencing menopause symptoms, particularly through GPs.

## Ministerial Servicing

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Aide memoire	Meeting with Sharesies	MW AM 24-25 0190	12 May
Aide memoire	Visit to Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa, 27 May	MW AM 24-25 0167	21 May
Aide memoire	IoD Women Directors Network Wellington event (Speech 14 May)	MW AM 24-25 0185	28 May
Briefing	2025/26 Estimates for Vote Women – Standard Estimates Questionnaire	MW BR 24-25 0150	12 May
Briefing	2025/26 Estimates for Vote Women – Pre-hearing written questions	MW BR 24-25 0151	29 May

Ministerial letters and responses		
Subject	Log number	Due date
Women's Mental Health World Congress	MW 24-25 0197	28 May

Official Information Act requests in progress		
Subject	Log number	Due to requester
Reports on updates to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DEI)	MW DOIA 24-25 0046	19 May
Information on gender definition	MW DOIA 24-25 0047	20 May
Government funding for Ngāti Rangi	MW DOIA 24-25 0045	13 May
Correspondence regarding pay equity	MW DOIA 24-25 0048	5 Jun
Communications within the Ministry for Women regarding the Equal Pay Amendment Bill	MW DOIA 24-25 0049	5 Jun

Cabinet paper consultations		
Title	Comment	Agency
withheld 9(2)(f)(iv)		

## Proactive release

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