

# **Fortnightly Report Minister for Women**

---

19 June 2025

## Current priority outcome areas

### **Champions for Change Summit highlights partnership opportunities for the Ministry**

On 12 June 2025, Secretary for Women and Ministry for Women Chief Executive, Kellie Coombes, presented at the Champions for Change Summit in Wellington.

Kellie spoke about the Ministry for Women's progress made with the Gender Pay Gap toolkit since its launch, the work underway to broaden the toolkit to include ethnic pay gap resources, and the encouraging trends in women's representation on public sector boards. She also highlighted the launch of the Free to Lead toolkit, reinforcing the importance of safe digital spaces for women in leadership and public life.

Her update on the Ministry's work was positively received by attendees, with strong interest shown in a continued partnership with the Champions for Change to retain momentum on these mutual areas of interest. This included a proposal by Champions co-chair Roger Gray that the group make a collective commitment to ethnic pay gap reporting.

### **Health Committee supports Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill**

The Health Committee has recommended that MP Catherine Wedd's Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill (the Bill) be passed without amendment.

The Committee received 123 written submissions and heard 20 oral submissions. Most submitters supported the Bill, although many agreed a 72-hour stay alone will not solve broader issues in maternity care.

Submissions in support of the Bill noted that extending postnatal stays would give new parents more time to recover, improve wellbeing, allow detection of health issues, provide access to professional support, and enable better access to care for rural, low-income and first-time parents.

Submissions against the Bill noted that women can already stay longer in hospital if there is clinical need, and that research supports continuity of community-based midwifery care. Concerns were also expressed about the new system limiting flexibility and decisions based on clinical judgement, hindering the ability to prioritise women with greater needs.

The Committee noted that the operational cost of additional beds could be between \$31.9 million and \$38.3 million. The capital cost to add capacity to the network would be over \$100 million. Some submitters suggested that without adequate additional investment the Bill could worsen capacity constraints in the maternity care system and could cause unintended harm.

### **Changes to stalking legislation**

On 10 June 2025, following public consultation, the Justice Committee put forward several recommendations to change certain aspects of the Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill, which Government coalition parties have agreed to. The Government anticipates the legislation will be passed by late 2025, with the law coming into effect six months later to allow for implementation and training.

Key changes to the Bill include:

- Changing the stalking event threshold so that the law can be enacted after two separate stalking or harassment acts within a 24-month period (initially two within 12 months).
- Expanding the definition of an act of stalking or harassment to include 'doxxing', including the publishing of any statement or material about the person being stalked.
- A new section to enable courts to order the destruction within ten working days of any intimate visual recordings of the person being stalked.
- Making it clear that offenders who are discharged without conviction can still have restraining orders applied to them.

The Ministry is currently working in partnership with relevant agencies, including the New Zealand Police and Ministry of Justice, on how it can best support the implementation of the legislation.

withheld 9(2)(f)(iv)

### **New Zealand drops one place in latest Global Gender Gap Index ranking**

The World Economic Forum report shows that New Zealand continues to perform strongly in the Global Gender Gap Index. For 2025, New Zealand ranks fifth out of 148 economies (compared to fourth out of 146 economies in 2024). New Zealand has ranked in the top ten consistently since 2015.

The Index measures progress towards gender parity across four key areas – economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

New Zealand has maintained first place in educational attainment, and our overall ranking reflects sustained progress over many years across the key areas. The slight drop in score is primarily due to fewer women in ministerial roles (53.8% in 2025 compared to 81.8% in 2023) and changes in other countries' performance, notably recent efforts in the U.K. which jumped to 4<sup>th</sup> from 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Ministerial Servicing

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
	withheld 9(2)(f)(iv)		
Aide memoire	Meeting with Nicola Coom	MW AM 24-25 0220	10 July

Official Information Act requests in progress		
Subject	Log number	Due to requester
<b>Ministry OIA requests</b>		
Defining gender in law – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0051	33 June
Internal Ministry communications regarding pay equity – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0054	23 June
Information and communications on pay equity claims prior to 7 May – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0055	24 June
Impact of cost-savings on research – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0061	8 July
Baseline update documents – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0062	11 July
Documents relating to the 'Bringing Gender In' tool – withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 24-25 0063	14 July
<b>Minister for Women OIA request</b>		
Copy of the Online Harm briefing	MW MOIA 24-25 0064	9 July

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>withheld 9(2)(f)(iv)</li> </ul>	
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.