

Fortnightly Report Minister for Women

24 October 2025

Current priority outcome areas

International Women's Caucus meeting 21 October 2025

On Tuesday 21 October, the Ministry convened the final International Women's Caucus meeting of the year, co-hosted with the Māori Women's Welfare League. The meeting was attended by 40 people representing 20 NGOs online and in-person.

Key themes through the day were:

- NGO's interest in, and advocacy for, women's health and pay equity.
- Concern over the high rates of online harm women and girls experience, its impact and the need to address this issue. The Chair of the Online Safety Coalition presented on its advocacy work.
- The importance of being effective Treaty partners. The Māori Women's Welfare League facilitated a session on this as co-host.
- Interest in promoting the international women, peace and security agenda. An inter-agency working group presented on New Zealand's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2025 – 2035.

The meeting kicked off discussions on preparations for the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) in March 2026, including the process for selecting an NGO Delegate to participate in the New Zealand delegation. Over the coming months, the Ministry will facilitate the Caucus' independent selection panel, in alignment with government requirements. The Ministry will keep you briefed on the outcomes of the selection process as well as broader preparations for CSW70.

During the wrap-up, the Caucus asked us to convey thanks to you for attending the meeting, and for hearing requests to include ethnicity and disability the Gender Pay Gap toolkit and making this happen.

Māori Women Business Awards

On Friday 24 October, Ministry for Women staff will be attending the annual Māori Women Business Awards hosted by Māori Women Development Inc (MWDI). The awards highlight the contributions of wāhine Māori entrepreneurs and professionals across diverse sectors throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond.

This year, the Ministry is partnering with MWDI to support the Supreme Award, recognising exceptional achievement, innovation, and leadership within the Māori business community.

Ministry-hosted leadership panel at Inspiring Wāhine Rural Events Conference

On Thursday 16 October, the Ministry hosted a leadership panel event at the Inspiring Wāhine Rural Events Conference in Gore.

The event provided an opportunity to connect in with rural women leaders and promote the Nominations Service. With a focus on governance, the panel members represented diverse backgrounds and career paths:

- **Gill Naylor** – former RWNZ president

- **Emma Crutchley** – former Chair and Director for Maniototo West Side Irrigation Company and a former director of the Maniototo Irrigation Company. In 2020 she co-founded and worked to establish a \$6 million multi-stakeholder catchment restoration project called ‘Tiaki Maniototo’, for the catchment group Upper Taieri Wai. Currently, she is the Arable Chair for Otago Federated Farmers. She is also a Kellogg Rural Leadership scholar, an Agri-Women’s Development Trust Escalator graduate.
- **Jo Brand** – Kaitoko Mātauranga at Hokonui Runaka. Jo and is known for her work in revitalising the Coppard Reserve and advocating for community-led approaches to healthcare. Additionally, she is involved with Health NZ and efforts to improve healthcare access in the Hokonui locality.
- **Cheyenne Wilson** – Founder and Managing Director of Te Kaharangi Hono, a specialist Māori Agribusiness and whenua Māori consulting firm. She is a trustee for the charity Meat the Need, a governance group member for Our Land and Water National Science Challenge and a Trustee for Lean on a Gate. Cheyenne was recently chair of He Tātai Rangahua, the Food and Fibre Youth Council and was a finalist in the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer of the Year in 2018.

The panel event was very well attended and prompted a number of queries about the Ministry and the Nominations Service.

We will provide your office with an update on new database sign-ups following this event, and the Zonta District conference held in Wellington on 10 – 12 October – at which the Ministry hosted a Nominations Service information stand.

The real fertility crisis – new report from the United Nations Population Fund launched at Parliament

On 14 October, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)’s Asia-Pacific Regional Office launched their latest *State of the World Population* report at Parliament. The launch event was hosted by the New Zealand Parliamentarians’ Group on Population and Development and Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa. The event was well attended by NGOs and agency officials.

This year’s report focuses on four key findings framed as “the real fertility crisis”:

- **A crisis of reproductive agency:** The global challenge is not a general underpopulation crisis but a deficit in individuals’ ability to make their own reproductive choices.
- **Barriers to desired fertility:** Economic instability, job insecurity, lack of healthcare, gender inequality, and insufficient support for family planning prevent millions from having the children they desire.
- **Young people are most affected:** A survey by the UNFPA found most young people want to have children but face significant hurdles due to their socio-economic circumstances.
- **Global decline in fertility:** While fertility rates are falling, often leading to concerns about population collapse, this is a consequence of limited reproductive choice rather than a widespread desire for fewer children.

New Zealand is one of the UNFPA’s top 20 donors. New Zealand provided \$18 million in core funding from 2024/25 – 2026/27. New Zealand will also soon announce \$2.6 million to UNFPA to support the implementation of national reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health plans in Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Engagement with new menopause workplace guide

Following the launch of *Making Menopause Work* last Thursday, the Ministry is monitoring social and digital engagement.

In the last five days since the guide was launched, the website has been viewed 1,307 times. The accompanying resources and case studies have been viewed 559 times and 324 times, respectively.

On social media, *Making Menopause Work* has been very positively received. There has been a range of engagement and commentary on the need for the guide, including from the Financial Services Council, Nest Consulting, Wētā FX, Human Resources NZ, Air New Zealand, FMG, Christchurch City Holdings Limited, the Ministry of Health and the Diversity Agenda.

Our social media engagement reached around 36,900 users across our three channels and had 69 reshares.

TVNZ's Seven Sharp also ran a piece on the launch of *Making Menopause Work*, interviewing menopause educator and guide co-creator, Sarah Connor, and Jenny Harrison from engineering and professional services firm WSP about the benefits of providing information and education on menopause for workplaces.

The Ministry is continuing to share the case study and women's voices videos, insights and calls to action for the guide, and plans are underway on further partnerships and social campaigns to increase reach.

Ministerial Servicing

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Aide memoire	Talking points for APH - NACEW	MW 25-26 0076	30 Oct
Aide memoire	Meeting with PSA National Secretaries	MW 24-25 0160	11 Nov

Ministerial letters and responses			
Subject		Log number	Due date
NGCOR1732 – Response to withheld 9(2)(a)		MW 25-26 0073	28 Oct
NGCOR1726 – Response to withheld 9(2)(a)		MW 25-26 0074	28 Oct

Official Information Act requests in progress			
Subject		Log number	Due to requester
AI policies and tools – withheld 9(2)(a)		MW DOIA 24-25 0018	14 Nov

Cabinet paper consultations			
Title	Comment	Agency	Due date
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.