



Manatū Wāhine
Ministry for Women

Fortnightly Report Minister for Women

30 January 2026

Current priority outcome areas

Ministry's new governance registration portal and database about to go live ahead of International Women's Day

The Ministry for Women's improved governance registration portal and database, Board Connector, is due to go live in the week of 16 February. The enhanced portal is part of the wider work the Ministry is doing to strengthen its Women in Leadership Service, including more tailored information and support to meet the specific needs of database members based on their level of governance experience.

The Ministry is working closely with the Institute of Directors (IoD) and engaging with other private sector organisations to generate buy-in and support for making the Board Connector database available to the private sector. The Ministry is also producing video case studies profiling seven different women's governance journeys to help amplify diverse governance experiences.

There are three key events taking place around International Women's Day that provide an opportunity to promote Board Connector and the broader work the Ministry is undertaking to support and grow women's representation across the governance landscape. These are:

- the Zonta Parliamentary Breakfast in Wellington on 5 March, which you are attending and speaking at
- an Institute of Directors event in Auckland on 9 March, which you are the keynote speaker at

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We will provide your office with event briefings, speech notes and media release for the Zonta breakfast to coincide with the database launch on March 5.

International Women's Caucus meeting 10 February 2026

We will co-host the first meeting of the International Women's Caucus (IWC) for 2026 with P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. at Te Iho on 10 February 2026. The meeting will include a dedicated session on preparations for the Seventieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) and will be an opportunity to introduce the NGO delegate to Caucus members. We are expecting around 50 Caucus members to attend (around 30 in person and the remainder online).

You are scheduled to address the Caucus before lunch; this will be immediately after discussions on CSW70, and the upcoming 2026 Women Deliver conference.

P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. requested an agenda item on this year's Women Deliver conference, which will be held in Melbourne 27-30 April 2026. Women Deliver is a global organisation that advocates for gender equality and the health and rights of women and girls. Mele Wendt from P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. is on the steering committee for the conference and has previously led calls for government attendance and support.

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Plans developing for Shepherdess Muster wellbeing hub

The Ministry is working with Shepherdess to secure the health providers and services for the wellbeing hub at the 2026 Shepherdess Muster. The focus of the three-day event, which is taking place from 6-8 March in Southland's Tokanui, is community connectedness and wellbeing. It provides a space for women from isolated rural areas across New Zealand to meet, share stories, and form connections.

The aim of the wellbeing hub is to offer health services and resources that women may not readily have access to.

So far, the following health and wellbeing providers have been confirmed for the hub:

- Dr Helen Paterson, Women's Health Bus – offering gynaecological appointments and cervical screening
- Te Whatu Ora – cervical screening programme, working closely with the Woman's Health Bus
- Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand – information
- Anna Thompson, Health Down South – pelvic floor checks
- Rose Keast, Naturopath – consults
- Angela Evans, Clinical Nutritionist & Health Coach – consults
- Skin spot checks
- Sarah Connor – menopause information
- Farmstrong

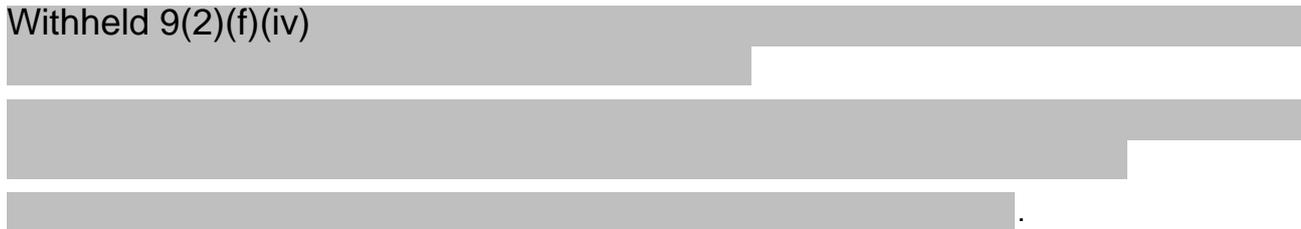
The Ministry is also developing a women's health survey, which women who visit the hub can opt to complete. It will cover questions about how women get their health information, how informed they feel about women's health issues and their understanding of the services they're eligible for, and what type of information and resources they might find useful.

We are working with your office to confirm the logistics of your attendance at the Muster and will keep you updated as plans for the hub progress.

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Ministry webinar: New year, new board career

More than 100 people attended our latest leadership and governance webinar – ‘New year, new board career’ on Wednesday 28 January.

Webinar attendees heard from Shirley McLeod, who two years ago decided to start her governance journey. She now sits on the Louise Nicholas Trust Board and is a board member with the Real Estate Authority following a Future Director placement. This follows 25 years working in public policy, transformation and service delivery.

Attendees heard about Shirley’s intentional step-by-step approach to kick starting her board career. She revealed the simple, deliberate, and clever steps she took to support her strategy to get into governance.

We are continuing to develop our webinar series throughout the year, with the aim of holding one webinar each month.

Release of Household Labour Force Statistics

On Wednesday 4 February Stats NZ will release updated labour market statistics for the December 2025 quarter (October to December 2025). As per previous updates, the Ministry will undertake an rapid analysis of the new data with particular attention to women’s labour market outcomes. Email advice will be provided to your office in the afternoon on the day of release.

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Ministerial Servicing

Policy advice and reports in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Memorandum	Mana Wāhine Kaupapa Inquiry update	MW MM 25-26 0103	4 Feb
Memorandum	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey Jul – Dec 2025	MW MM 25-26 0115	4 Feb

Event and meeting briefings in progress			
Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Event briefing	International Women's Caucus meeting, 10 February 2026	MW 25-26 0109	4 Feb
Event briefing	Zonta IWD breakfast, Thursday 5 March	MW 25-26 0116	26 Feb

Written parliamentary questions		
Subject	Log number	Due date
Statements relating to the cost of mandatory pay gap reporting in Australia – Hon Carmel Sepuloni	MW WPQ 25-26 0039	4 Feb

Official Information Act requests in progress		
Subject	Log number	Due to requester
Ministry OIA requests		
Government Department Strategy (GDS) – Withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 25-26 0031	19 Feb
Karaka and Waiata group related documents – Withheld 9(2)(a)	MW DOIA 25-26 0032	24 Feb
Minister for Women OIA requests		
Copy of the 1 December NACEW briefing – Withheld 9(2)(a)	MW MOIA 25-26 0030	13 Feb

Cabinet paper consultations		
Title	Comment	Agency
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Proactive release

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