



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to Statistics New Zealand on the 2001 Census on
Population and Dwellings Output Review**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 42 nationally organised societies. It has 34 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

NCWNZ has always taken a keen interest in how various sectors of the population are housed, and if there is adequate housing of a suitable quality available to all. Of particular interest to us are statistics on the following areas on which we have policy.

Beneficiaries and low income earners: We are concerned that the rental properties available and affordable by this group are in fact adequate. We wonder how many houses have more than one family living in them, in cramped conditions, as this impacts in the health and general well-being of these people.

Aged and disabled: Information about housing for these groups needs to show that appropriate access is available as well as appropriate fixtures and fittings to ensure self care and independent living can be achieved where this is appropriate.

Women alone: NCWNZ is most concerned that women should be subject to the same criteria as men when seeking mortgages to buy themselves a home. Although equality should prevail, anecdotal evidence leads us to believe that the reality in the market place varies. Barriers are still raised in some finance institutions which preclude women from attaining such an asset and independence.

We would ask that housing remain as an area where statistics, particularly covering the above issues, continue to be available through the Census.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Beryl Anderson
National President

Christine Rattray, Convenor
Social Issues Standing Committee

