



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Ministry of Health on the
Lead Maternity Care Services – Proposal**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 43 nationally organised societies. It has 34 branches spread throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated.

Given the short time frame for a response to this proposal only members of the Nucleus group of the Health Standing Committee have been able to look at this document. They made the following comments.

In general they agree with the proposal, as it would encourage consistency of contracts and also data collection. They believe however that it is essential that all Lead Maternity Carers (LMCs) be expected to provide data in a consistent and timely manner so that all providers can be monitored against the same criteria. They agree that it is essential to have a single national view.

The other general comments included the need to acknowledge the importance of postnatal care and to see that sufficient home visits are available for Mothers following early discharge. NCWNZ is aware that the College of Midwives is currently looking at a ten-month maternity plan to ensure that there is adequate follow-up and would support this notion.

NCWNZ has commented previously that rural mileage requires to be re-assessed as distance traveled by LMCs in rural areas is greater than that of their urban counterparts. Wear and tear on vehicles is also a factor for rural LMCs as the roads are often in poorer condition.

3.0 Rationale for proposed service

Two of those contributing believe that all LMC services are not the same, and this rationale implies that all LMCs, GP's, Midwives, and Gynaecologists do not provide the same kinds of service but they are all complementary. It was pointed out that Gynaecologists provide specialist medical care and are supported by Midwives who are able to give continuity and time to the Mother which is often not possible for medical practitioners. It was also felt very strongly by our members that women must have a choice of LMC

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal, though NCWNZ is disappointed that time did not allow for wider consultation of our members on this issue. Again we urge you to consider postnatal visits in more detail, as NCWNZ believes that better outcomes for Mother and baby could be achieved if this were recognised.

Barbara Glenie
National President

Dorothy Meyer
Board Member

