



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to Ministry of Health on the Review of Processes
Concerning Adverse Medical Events by Helen Cull QC**

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.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Members of the NCWNZ Health Standing Committee and individual branch members have been pleased to read this document. Many have commented on the breadth of the consultation undertaken which included a number of consumer groups. NCWNZ has made a number of submissions on health related matters, for example, Professional Competencies for Nurses, Doctors and Dentists; the Medical Practitioners (Foreign Qualified Medical Practitioners) Amendment Bill and many others that have a bearing on the present question.

NCWNZ is pleased therefore, to see evidence of these matters being brought together in reports and legislation. We are aware however, that complaints are not always dealt with in a timely manner but are unsure if this is a result of a lack of financial resources including staff. It may, of course, be due to the excessively complicated procedures for complaint making including the need for the complainant to forward specific complaints in writing.

NCWNZ members are supportive of the principles contained in the report but question whether funding may be a barrier to the implementation of the recommendations.

In the light of the Gisborne Cervical Enquiry Report, some of the proposed changes to the Health and Disability Act would also support the recommendations in this report.

We strongly support such bodies as the Medical Council, ACC, and the Health and Disability Commissioner working together to prevent duplication and the consequent waste of money. All respondents support the principle that the Medical Council should have the power to suspend medical practitioners where necessary, and that the Medical Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal should be able to remove a practitioner from the registrar.

In conclusion, NCWNZ supports the "one-stop-shop" approach to complaints for the reasons outlined in the report.

NCWNZ wishes to compliment the author on a comprehensive study on these issues and an informative and readable report. It looks forward to seeing the recommendations implemented.

Barbara Glenie
National President

Elizabeth Bang
Convener, Health Standing Committee

