



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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S03.39

**Submission to the Commerce Select Committee on the  
Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill**

The National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Bill. NCWNZ is an umbrella organisation representing 42 nationally organised societies. There are 34 Branches of NCWNZ throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international level through research, study, discussion and action. Ten specialist Standing Committees, working through various forms of correspondence, study issues relating to their particular subjects, and, with input where possible from the general membership, prepare submissions on legislation and discussion documents. Members of the Consumer Affairs Standing Committee have studied this Bill.

NCWNZ welcomes the proposed amendments to the Radio New Zealand Act. Surveys of members from time to time over a number of years have shown that they are keen listeners to National Radio and the Concert Programme, and greatly value the variety of material these networks transmit.

**Clause 3 Charter**

(1) The proposal to amend section 7 of the principal Act to make Radio New Zealand's programming more holistic in nature, by adding 'spiritual' and 'ethical' development to 'cultural', is applauded. NCWNZ itself seeks to promote the spiritual, moral and civil welfare in the community, as we see this is as the foundation for the maintenance of a healthy society

(2) We welcome the inclusion of the words "a full range of age groups", having been concerned over many years that children are not adequately catered for. However radio stations have developed very specialised audiences, many of them targeting specific age groups by providing programmes, frequently mostly music, that are deemed to appeal to their target audience. We hope that providing for a full range of age groups will not diminish the quality, content or style of Radio New Zealand's programmes.

(3) NCWNZ has always fostered a close liaison with its sister organisations in the South Pacific, and our members are pleased to see the proposed development of Radio New Zealand International, which will not only assist the development of South Pacific countries but will also foster positive relationships between those countries and New Zealand. This is particularly important given the large number of Pacific Island peoples living in New Zealand, both native and New Zealand born.

(4) The proposal to conduct an annual survey of members of the current audience of Radio New Zealand is good, and will help those planning programmes to ensure that the expectations of the audience are being met.

The second part of this clause however does not give any reason for conducting occasional surveys of persons who are not members of the current audience, or any expected outcome.





It is very difficult for people to comment on something they do not know anything about. Their comments on what Radio New Zealand does or does not do, or what they, as non-listeners would like it to do are not likely to be constructive. They have, after all, chosen to listen to other broadcasters, prefer other forms of entertainment, or seek knowledge in other formats.

The National Council of Women of New Zealand, in general, endorse the aims and objectives of the Bill.

Beryl Anderson  
National President

Eileen Imlach  
Convener, Consumer Affairs Standing Committee



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