



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Education and Science Committee on the  
Student Loan Scheme Amendment Bill (No. 6)**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 46 nationally organised societies. There are 35 branches spread throughout the country to which women from 150 societies are affiliated.

The Nucleus group of the Education Standing Committee of NCWNZ discussed this amendment to the Student Loan Scheme bill at its most recent meeting.

We noted and approved the first principal objective of this Bill, namely that the delivery of student allowances and loans will be transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Department of Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ).

We noted that this objective will be met by changing references to the "Secretary of Education, the "Ministry of Education" and the Minister of Education" to the "Chief Executive" of the Department of Work and Income and authorised officers of the Department of Work and Income.

However we add the proviso that assurance is needed, when this Bill is enacted, that the officers of the Department of Work and Income responsible for the delivery of the student allowances and loans, are adequately trained and sufficiently resourced to carry out the work expeditiously so that students are not financially embarrassed at the beginning of the academic year.

With regard to the second principal objective we are pleased to see that the enforceability of student loan contracts entered into by students under the age of 18 years is put beyond doubt.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Barbara Glenie  
**National President**

Dorothy Meyer  
**Convener  
Education Standing Committee**

