



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

National Office  
Level 4 Central House  
26 Brandon Street  
PO Box 25-498  
Wellington 6146  
(04)473 76 23  
office@ncwnz.org.nz  
www.ncwnz.org.nz

31 January 2014

## Request for Donations

Dear NCWNZ Members,

I am writing directly to all of you to ask for your help in a time of significant financial crisis for NCWNZ. You will already know that we have been running the National Office on a shoestring and that we are struggling to restructure our office and services to fit within our limited budget. You may also be aware that we have recently regained registration as a charitable entity which was wrongly removed from us in 2010. As you will see from the Media Release copied below, because the re-registration was not backdated by DIA-Charities, the IRD has not refunded NCWNZ's Income Tax paid over this period.

Accordingly we have been left with no alternative other than to challenge the IRD decision in Court and this will be filed on 31 January 2014. While much of the legal work required taking this case to the High Court has been done on a 'pro bono' basis by Sue Barker, a Charities lawyer who is very supportive of NCWNZ and its work, there are still significant costs that we will need to bear.

We urgently need your help as we challenge these decisions in court and would appreciate donations which can be made by **online deposit to Westpac bank: 030 502 0100 220 00 giving your name and 'donation' as references** or by **cheque posted to NCWNZ, PO Box 25 498, WELLINGTON 6146**. Alternatively you can support our public fundraising campaign and make an online donation at: <http://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/ncwnzhighcourt>.

Please circulate this widely through your networks as many other Charities will benefit from the stand we are taking with the IRD. It is time that charitable organisations sought greater recognition for the services they provide to New Zealand communities.

Receipts will be issued for all donations and members are reminded that individual members who make donations can claim a third of their donated amount off their own Income Tax.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Arnold".

Barbara Arnold  
National President NCWNZ

For more information contact

Rae Duff, Vice President  
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EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE: Friday 31 January 2014, 8am

**National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) Files High Court Challenge to Charitable Status Decisions.**

NCWNZ has today filed a challenge in the High Court with a Notice of Appeal against the DIA-Charities' (previously the Charities Commission) decision not to back date the Council's re-registration as a charity. This follows the legal challenge made on 19 December 2013 against the IRD for the tax imposed during the 2 year 'stand down' period while NCWNZ were negotiating their re-registration.

As the charitable aims and purposes of the National Council of Women have not changed over 120 years the decisions of the Charities Regulator and the consequent imposition of tax by the IRD is widely considered to be unfair and wrong, said National President Barbara Arnold. However, she said, the Council is obliged to appeal against the Charities Regulator in the High Court, this being the only option under the Charities legislation. The Court's decision will have far reaching effects for the Charities legislation and Barbara Arnold said she expects a clear direction for future charitable organisations. No voluntary group should be put under this sort of pressure in the future.

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 30 organisations affiliated at national level and a further 40 organisations affiliated at branch level. It has 22 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of these organisations, as well as individual members. NCWNZ's function is to represent and promote the interests of New Zealand women through research, discussion and action. Barbara Arnold said this prolonged litigation has had a significant effect on the Council which has very limited financial resources and relies primarily on volunteers to carry out its work. NCWNZ is seeking financial assistance with their court costs through a public campaign on the Givealittle website – [www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/ncwnzhighcourt](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/ncwnzhighcourt).

**For more information contact:**

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