



25 May 2018

Committee Secretariat
Governance and Administration Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6140

E-mail: ew@parliament.govt.nz

Re: Submission to the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill

This submission is from the NZ Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW NZ) Inc.

Our interest in this submission is because of the impact that local government decision-making has on the lives of women.

Our submission below addresses and provides recommendations to Part 1: Reinstatement of 4 aspects of well-being.

1. Part 1: Reinstatement of 4 aspects of well-being

1.1.1. Local governments are making decisions which have social, economic, environment and cultural implications, whether planning parks and playgrounds, or the provision of services or infrastructure. This is the reality of their work. This policy will ensure that local governments are operating under a consistent understanding, between different communities and regions, but also with the national government. BPW believes this approach will represent a logical and coherent approach for democratic local decision-making, managing and providing for communities' needs and well-being, and allocating scarce resources while protecting the environment.

1.1.2. BPW NZ's diverse membership include women entrepreneurs and small-medium enterprise (SME) employees and owners. 97% of New Zealand businesses are SMEs employing 30% of working New Zealanders.¹ About 45% SMEs are owned by women.² The decisions of local governments, particularly around public services and infrastructure is key to the success of

¹ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business/business-growth-and-internationalisation/documents-image-library/Small-business-stats-factsheet.pdf>

² <https://idealogue.co.nz/workplace/2016/10/more-women-ever-are-running-small-businesses-equality-still-eludes-us>

BPW NEW ZEALAND

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these organisations and we believe the 4 aspects will better ensure local government decision-making reflects the complex pressures of operating an SME.

- 1.1.3. In addition, the reinstatement of the 4 aspects will better ensure that the interests of non-rate paying residents are represented. LGNZ reports that rates make up on average 60% of local government revenue.³ Many of the women BPW NZ has worked with or who are members are less likely to be rate payers, such as migrant and refugee women and low-income shift workers. They are also more likely to be of non-Pakeha ethnicity. To improve gender inequality in New Zealand, and empower some of our most vulnerable women, local governments must consider the impact of their decisions on these women.
- 1.1.4. BPW NZ campaigns to end violence against women and believes the 4 aspects would better support local governments in making public safety a key consideration when community planning. (BPW Policy 18.5.3.) For example, security cameras are not sufficient and community policing must be funded to patrol community areas frequently.
- 1.1.5. BPW NZ upholds the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and believes the 4 aspects aligns CEDAW's Articles. For example, Article 3 is about basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, Article 10 is about access to education and Article 11 is about equal right to work. Local government support these rights by providing social services themselves, working with education and social service organisations, and supporting local agencies and groups. They may also target vulnerable women, such as migrants and refugees in conducting this work.

1.2. BPW NZ makes the following recommendations to ensure there is community and people involvement in decision making:

- 1.2.1. *Recommendation Definition of Community Outcomes:* BPW NZ supports changes to the purpose provisions (Section 3 amended (Purpose)) but also would like to ensure communities have a say in what will meet their own current and future needs and well-being, and how that will be funded. Fundamental to the LGA regime was engagement with local communities through well-prescribed accountability and decision-making provisions. Regarding *Section 5 amended (Interpretation) In section 5(1), replacing the definition of community outcomes with: community outcomes means the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and*

³ <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/nzs-local-government/new-section-page/>



cultural well-being of its district or region in the present and for the future BPW recommends adding at the end “in collaboration with community organisations, civic societies, citizens, groups, and especially women’s groups.”

- 1.2.2. *Recommendation Definition of Significance:* to ensure that the focus of local government is on the community and its people, BPW NZ recommends amending *section 5(1), definition of significance, replacing paragraph (a) with: (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region* to add at the end “and its people”.

2. Part 1: Well-being & the Sustainable Development Goals

2.1. BPW NZ policy supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Local Government is at the heart of the SDGs and of the Global Agenda 2030. Local government is indeed important policy-maker and catalyst for change and is best positioned to link the global goals to local communities. The SDGs are unique in that they reflect a poor, rich and middle-income country as well as private-public approach to ending poverty, promoting prosperity and protecting the environment. They are broader in scope and go further than the Millennium Development Goals. They were adopted by countries, including New Zealand, at a 2015 UN Summit. Sustainable Development Goal 11 refers to *Sustainable Cities and Communities*. The targets for Goal 11 are comprehensive, the following are only a partial selection for which BPW NZ believes the reinstatement of the 4 aspects will support:

- access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- protecting and safe guarding cultural and natural heritage
- access to green and public spaces in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and
- supporting positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

3. Part 1: Hauora/Well-being & The Treaty of Waitangi

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3.1. *Recommendation Hauora*: BPW NZ recognizes recognises that Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand’s founding document and recommends that the Amendment Bill reflect this by adopting the te reo term, “hauora”, alongside “well-being”.

4. Gender Analysis

4.1. *Recommendation Gender Impact Analysis*: We note that a regulatory impact assessment was conducted by the Department of Internal Affairs and recommend that a gender analysis is conducted, as is recommended by CEDAW (Article 2). The United Nations Development Programme describes a gender analysis as:

- *An intrinsic dimension of policy analysis*
- *Identifying specifically how public policy affects women and men differently*
- *Demonstrating that policy and implementation cannot be gender neutral in gendered societies*
- *Being supported by specific analytic tools*

5. Our Organisation

BPW NZ is a diverse group with over three hundred members throughout New Zealand. Our organisation’s aims are to link professional and business women throughout the world so that they may provide support to each other, lobby for change and to promote the ongoing advancement of women and girls. We work for equal opportunities and status for all women in economic, civil and political life and the removal of discrimination in all countries. We promote our aims and organise our operating structure without distinction as to race, language or religion.

International Status:

BPW International has General Consultative Status at the United Nations through the UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC). This enables BPW International to appoint official representatives to UN agencies worldwide and to accredit members to attend specific UN meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission and we hope that our comments are of use to you.

On behalf of
New Zealand Federation of Business and professional Women Inc.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hellen Swales'.

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