

Annual General Meeting 2018

President's Annual Report

UN Women is the United Nations entity for gender equality and women's empowerment. The National Committee Aotearoa NZ is committed to advancing these goals in Aotearoa NZ and the Pacific; to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 including the elimination of violence against women and girls; to the implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles and other UN Women initiatives and to developing local networks, activities and fundraising to support these goals.

He mihi mahana ki a koe

I have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report which outlines progress we have made towards achieving our purpose and its four underlying objectives in 2018.

- **Raise the Profile of UN Women throughout New Zealand**

Regular communication with our members and the public is through our newsletters, the website and Facebook. We published three newsletters in the past year. We have increased our Facebook "likes" over the last year and now regularly reach 2,000 per month, and we have seen a steady increase in accessing other social media channels. I would like to acknowledge our wonderful and loyal members who now number more than 200. You are the backbone of our organisation.

International Women's Day continues to be a major focus for increasing our profile, for fund raising and for collaboration with partner organisations. We supported over 60 IWD events in 2018 and raised \$12,000, \$2,000 more than in 2017, for projects in the Pacific targeting ending violence against women and girls. Since IWD we have continued to support the UN Women Papua New Guinea Meri Seif Bus (Safe Transport for Women and Girls) project in Port Moresby. A strength of IWD continues to be the collaborative partnerships with other women's organisations as we work together to celebrate the day.

This year the successful UN Women/Zonta Breakfast at Parliament was livestreamed, thanks to generous sponsorship by ANZ Bank, across New Zealand and internationally and the Grand Hall in Parliament was opened in addition to the Banquet Hall. This new initiative enabled over 145 groups and individuals to link into the festivities from around the country and an additional 150 guests at Parliament. A significant feature of IWD events is that they attract and inspire young women who may be exposed for the first time to the wealth of experience and insight demonstrated by the women who speak at the events. The Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy and the Rt Hon Helen Clark were inspiring and popular keynote speakers this year, an additional draw for younger women.



The **UN Women/UN Global Compact Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)** continues to attract strong support from the private sector. The WEPs is a collaborative effort of the five organisations that comprise the Committee – NZ Federation of Business and Professional Women, Diversity Works NZ, Human Rights Commission, and Zonta District 16 in addition to UN Women NCANZ. WEPs has a part-time administrator to support the 59 NZ organisations signed up and contributing financially to implementation of the Principles in their workplaces. The overall winner of the 2017 White Camellia Awards, which celebrates the business which best meets the criteria of a gender equal workplace, was law firm Simpson Grierson.

In 2018, we supported and participated in two breakfast seminars on gender equality in the workplace and sexual harassment in the workplace arranged by the WEPs Committee held in both Auckland and Wellington. We are very grateful to UN Women National Committee Empowerment Partner ANZ Bank and KPMG who hosted the seminars in Wellington.

- **Working in Partnership**

NGOs



UN Women NCANZ is a member of the **Council for International Development (CID)**, National Council of Women and meets regularly with the **UN family**, a meeting involving the several UN affiliated organisations in NZ. Through active membership of these organisations, we strengthen our profile and increase our effectiveness. This is increasingly important in our promotion of SDG#5 for gender equality.

We are now a signatory to the CID Code of Compliance, a requirement of all CID members. This code provides a transparent description and undertaking by signatories to a series of publicly available and agreed standards which provide reassurance to the general public, potential donors and official funders. This is crucial for the credibility and good standing of organisations like UN Women NCANZ that seek funding for international development. While comparatively small, we have a significant influential role as an organisation with a strong mandate for gender equality and women's empowerment.

We have maintained an active relationship with **National Council of Women** as an organisational member. We were very pleased to promote NCW's [Gender Attitudes Survey](#) published earlier in 2018. The chart/ game, Good Guys, which focuses on attitudes around masculinity is particularly insightful and engaging. A major milestone too was celebrating with NCW the presentation of an alternate report to the CEDAW Committee alongside the government's reporting. The Committee's concluding observations are helpful in highlighting areas which still need work. They are core to the mandate of UN Women. Not surprisingly, the "alarmingly high level of gender based violence" is noted as a key area for improvement.

Government

The Ministry for Women invites women's organisations including UN Women NCANZ to regular meetings of the **International Women's Caucus**. We attended three meetings in the past year. They continue to provide an excellent networking opportunity and also access to the Minister for Women. Given its broad membership, it is a very useful opportunity to keep up to date with the varying issues of concern to the sector. The meetings are crucial in the lead up to the Commission on the Status of Women meetings held each March in New York. We were not able to participate in 2018 but we keep well informed about the discussions and issues through UN Women and the Caucus.

Discussion on the NZ National Action Plan (NAP) on women, peace and security (**Resolution 1325**), a key element of UN Women's mandate, takes place at the International Women's Caucus, with representatives from the Ministry of Defence, NZ Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). We look forward to enhancing our engagement on this with recent staff changes in MFAT. We maintain our links to the NGO consortium which coordinates activity around Resolution 1325.

UN Women

Our key partnership within the UN Women family in the Pacific in the past year was with the UN Women Papua New Guinea office in association with the Meri Seif Bus project. Recently however we have renewed our engagement with the **UN Women Multi Country office in Suva**. This relationship will be strengthened at the 2018 National Committees meeting which is being held in late October in Nadi, Fiji, followed by two days visiting UN Women projects in Fiji. Three NZ National Committee Board members are attending the meeting, the first in a developing country and helpfully for us, in the southern hemisphere. The 2017 meeting was held in Iceland and we were unable to attend. This meeting held annually is the only opportunity when the 15 National Committees worldwide meet together and with UN Women Headquarters staff. It is a vital event for us to build relationships and to remain relevant.

UN Women Headquarters staff will be working with National Committees in Fiji to introduce and explain what is required for National Committees to sign up to a new three year Recognition Agreement. This is the base document that confers legitimate status to National Committees to act in the name of UN Women. This needs to be completed in 2019 and will be a significant piece of work for the new Board.

We continue to enjoy a close working relationship with the Executive Director of the Australian National Committee, Janelle Weissman, who provides advice as requested and offers opportunities which we can jointly support. The Australian National Committee is organising the meeting in Fiji.

- **Fund raising for UN Women Projects**

Fund raising additional to activities associated with IWD continues to be challenging, and depends on the energy and commitment of Board members supported by our Administrator

Dayna Berghan-Whyman. During the year we held successful film fundraising events in both Wellington and Christchurch associated with the film *My Year with Helen*.



We have just launched a monthly giving programme **woman2woman** to encourage supporters to sign up to monthly giving as a way of both supporting UN Women work in the Pacific and also to confer membership. We will be promoting the programme actively during 2019.

We were grateful to our Empowerment Partners **ANZ Bank** and **Trilogy** for their continued financial support during the year.

- **Advocate for increased funding for UN Women**

We acknowledge the ongoing annual contribution of NZ\$2.5million from the New Zealand Government to UN Women. This is a core contribution which has been maintained for several years. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade engages directly with UN Women from the desk in Wellington and the NZ Mission in New York, we keep in regular contact with the Wellington based Desk Officer to use every opportunity for pushing for an increase in the core contribution. We are hopeful that there might be a positive change with the Pacific Reset policy of the Coalition Government and the increased financial commitment to the Pacific. We also participate with CID to advocate for not only an increase in aid generally and for an increase in support to NGOs, but also to strengthen the aid programme's commitment to gender equality, particularly in the Pacific.

How we work

Without the voluntary commitment of our Board members, supported by our part time Administrator Dayna Berghan-Whyman, the UN Women National Committee would not exist. We started the year with 13 elected Board members. We also had active support from our contacts in Christchurch, Jan Suckling and in Auckland, Cate Bell-Mork. During the year, both Kerry Smith and Hayley Lewis-Pullin resigned due to changes in their circumstances. We were sad to lose them. However we were very fortunate in being able to co-opt Cate Bell-Mork as a full member of the Board, and to the WEPs Committee.

The Board met four times during the year and the Executive which undertakes essential business between Board meetings, met six times. This year the Executive comprised the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and membership Board member. Executive meetings are held via skype.

Appreciation

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the active interest of our Patron, the Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy in the activities of our National Committee. We were thrilled that Dame Patsy spoke once again at the Breakfast at Parliament on International Women's Day and agreed to host the 2017 White Camellia Awards at Government House.

Thank you, too, to our Empowerment Partners ANZ Bank and Trilogy. Their financial contribution allows us to do much more for promoting gender equality in Aotearoa and in the Pacific. The direct personal support from Gina McJorrow from ANZ and Brooke Riley and Bianca Talaic at Trilogy is highly valued.

It was particularly sad to lose two of our long term supporters during the year, Rae Lady Frampton and Life member Mary Gray. They had both joined the organisation in its UNIFEM days but had continued their interest despite increased frailty, when we became UN Women. They had both enjoyed long, active lives, notable for their commitment to gender equality and women's organisations. We are grateful to the families of Rae and Mary for their generous acknowledgement of our condolences.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to several Board members this year – Julie Harris, Angela McLeod, Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando, Christine Cook and Bal Devgun, in addition to Kerry and Hayley who left during the year. Angela and Barbara have been on the Board for several years and have made a great contribution in their roles as former President and Vice President respectively. Angela has been a core member of the WEPs Committee for several years and her expertise in communications has been very helpful in her time on the Board. Barbara has skilfully juggled her commitment to the National Committee while working as a consultant on various contracts around the Pacific. Her depth of experience in the Pacific and with NGO governance and her oversight of our IWD support (excluding the Breakfast at Parliament which is managed separately) has been highly valued. Barbara has also generously self-funded representation at the National Committees meeting in Berlin in 2016. Kia kaha to all of our outgoing Board members. Good luck with your new ventures and thank you so much for your contribution to UN Women and our National Committee.

This is also the last meeting for our tireless and committed Administrator Dayna Berghan-Whyman. Dayna is often the first port of call for our members and enquirers and her friendly and welcoming approach will be missed. Dayna has been working for us for three years and feels that the time is right, as she says, to hand on the opportunity to another committed feminist. We are however unlikely to find one who combines these skills with being a medieval pole axe champion! Thank you so much Dayna.

I would like to acknowledge in particular the huge amount of time and energy that Executive member Suzanne McNabb and Treasurer Joanne Lentfer have devoted to membership renewal and strategic planning in addition to financial management; and Board member Sue Kedgley for her long term commitment to WEPs and the IWD Breakfast at Parliament. During the year, our volunteer IT support person, Victoria Spagnolo retired after several years' service and we recruited the services of Fuzion to provide ongoing IT support.

This is my last report as President of the UN Women National Committee Aotearoa NZ. I have been privileged to serve the organisation in that role for three years and it is now time to move on. While I leave with mixed feelings, I am heartened at the wealth of talent, energy and commitment we have attracted to our organisation. I wish the new President every success in the role. It is an exciting time to be at the forefront of making a difference for women and girls both here and in the Pacific. Thank you to all past and present Board members who have shared their wisdom and worked with me to help make that happen.

And finally thank you to all our members and supporters. We have an exciting year ahead with a new, increasingly youthful and diverse Board. Our future is bright. Just take a look at the wonderful #Trailblazing125 social media campaign which we have enjoyed during this month when we celebrate 125 years of women's suffrage in Aotearoa NZ. Thank you to Laura and Emily for showing us what is possible and helping us embrace the opportunities of social media.

Nga mihi nui

Barbara Williams
President UN Women NCANZ

22 September 2018

