

9.4.96

Report by Jean O'Neil - NZ COM regional representative to
NZ Council of Women Wellington regional group

In this last year Mandy Thompson and I have shared this role to represent COM at the monthly Council of Women meetings. I make this report in her absence. The National Council of Women is a large group of women and affiliated national organisations whose function is to serve women and the community at national and international level through study, discussion and action. Its major concerns are related to family and social issues, health, education, employment, human rights and the environment.

Currently a lot of energy is being expended in centenary celebrations of the organisation - 100 years since Kate Shephard and friends set up this organisation. While partying goes on there is an incessant beavering of committees, letters and submissions being generated towards so many issues acknowledged in this report I will touch on a small number briefly. Currently Standing Committees are working on Women and Employment looking at parental leave, work issues and home support workers. Fathers who Care is a programme recognising and improving fathering skills being promoted by the Commissioner for Children. Water Safety, Tobacco advertising issues, Prostitution - Legalise or Decriminalise is another campaign COWNZ is making submissions on. The Education Standing Committee and Parliamentary Watch Committee are making submissions on the Teacher Registration Bill. The Parliament Watch Committee and Environment Standing Committee are making submissions relating to Prohibition of Mining Bill, and also Ozone Layer Protection Bill, Tertiary Health Services in NZ, Proposed Amendments to the Electricity Act and Gas Act of 1992, The Firearms Provisions of the Domestic Violence Bill, British Citizenship is now available to children of British women not just British men as it was previously. COWNZ is also involved in projects such as International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, and also World Water Day 1996: Water for Thirsty Cities.

In this year there have not been situations where I have needed to make any formal presentation on the behalf of NZCOM but nevertheless I feel our presence would be invaluable were there to be issues arise related to maternity care provision in this country.

I will not be wanting to continue with this position, I have not heard from Mandy Thompson of her situation for this coming year.

Yours sincerely

Jean O'Neil