



Manatū Wāhine  
Ministry for Women

# Fortnightly Report Minister for Women

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24 May 2024

## Current priority outcome areas

### Coalition for the Safety of Women and Children launch petition on making stalking a crime

[A petition](#) has been launched by the Coalition for the Safety of Women and Children (comprised of 22 women's refuges, women's community organisations, and violence prevention NGOs) calling on the Minister for Justice to make stalking a crime under the Crimes Act 1961. [An open letter](#) (published by the Auckland Women's Refuge on behalf of the Coalition) to Minister Goldsmith accompanied the petition.

The petition is a call to prioritise women's safety needs and states that "making stalking a crime will help to protect our basic human right to live safely and free of fear in Aotearoa NZ. We need to do this now to prevent more severe distress and physical harm from stalking, including murders committed by stalkers."

The petition has been prompted by the Independent Police Complaints Authority's recent findings on the death of Farzana Yaqubi, who was murdered by her stalker on 19 December 2022 while waiting (over 8 weeks) for her stalking complaint to be investigated.

The petition is running through ActionStation and gained over 8,000 signatures from individuals, academics, unions, and women's rights organisations as of 21 May 2024.

Stalking statistics are not captured in the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, however we know stalking severely impacts victims' safety and wellbeing. Young women, recently separated women, and those experiencing intimate partner violence are most commonly affected by stalking. Wāhine Māori, disabled women, rainbow women and trans people, and migrant and refugee women are also disproportionately impacted.

In response to the petition and open letter, Minister Goldsmith commented in the media that the Government would review New Zealand's stalking laws before the next election, but is currently focused on legislation related to violent offenders and gangs (see: [RNZ, 20 May 2024](#)).

### New report on bullying, sexual harassment, and racial harassment in New Zealand

On 17 May 2024, Te Kahui Tika Tāngata Human Rights Commission and KPMG released the report, [Counting the Cost: Estimating the economic cost of workplace bullying and harassment on New Zealand employers](#).

The report's findings showed that in 2023, the conservative estimate of the total cost of bullying, sexual harassment, and racial harassment to New Zealand employers was around \$1.5 billion. The figure was likely higher as the analysis did not consider all the significant financial (e.g., the impact of external mediations and employment tribunals), mental, and emotional costs to workers who experience bullying and harassment.

The report found that there were gender-based differences in experiences of workplace bullying and harassment:

- The female workforce made up 47% of the working population but accounted for 58% of the annual economic costs of bullying and harassment for employers.
- This difference between genders was driven by turnover and replacement, with 19.5% of female and 12.5% of male affected workers resigning at the time of the incident.

- 14.5% of female and 9.6% of male affected workers made an internal complaint following an incident.

Since the mistreatment of female workers formed a disproportionately large part of the overall cost, the report emphasised the need for further investigation into gender-based differences. It also noted that proactively addressing workplace bullying and harassment could boost worker productivity, have economic benefits to employers, and make the country a better place to work and live.

The report recommends five key measures employers could take to prevent and respond to bullying:

1. Someone independent looking into the workplace culture/policies.
2. Anti-bullying and harassment training for the workplace.
3. Support to make an internal complaint.
4. Independent, free service to resolve the situation.
5. Counselling/mental health support services.

### **Release of Te Ōhanga Wāhine Māori, The Māori Women's Economy**

The Ministry for Women released our latest research, 'Te Ōhanga Wāhine Māori, The Māori Women's Economy,' in partnership with Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) on 15 May 2024. This report represents the first major study on the Māori women's economy and is also one of the first-ever studies of indigenous women's economy internationally. The report highlights the economic and wellbeing contributions of wāhine Māori in households, businesses, and communities, detailing their socio-economic participation, labour market outcomes, business ownership, leadership, and the value of unpaid work. It found that wāhine Māori generated \$5.9 billion value add to all sectors of the economy in 2022. With the inclusion of unpaid work, the size of the wāhine Māori economy nearly doubled to \$12.5 billion, equalling 3.2 percent of national production GDP.

Feedback has been positive including high levels of engagement with more than 130 likes and 22 reposts to date on the Ministry's LinkedIn account. We will share more insights from this report around International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9, including the potential for a panel discussion featuring successful wāhine Māori exporters and future opportunities around trade.

[You can access the full report on the Ministry website.](#)

### **APEC Women and the Economy Forum**

The Ministry attended the APEC Women and the Economy Forum (WEF) and related meetings in Arequipa, Peru, from 13-17 May 2024.

You had delegated representation at this meeting to the Ministry, and Anna Macdonald, Policy Manager, attended as Head of Delegation and delivered New Zealand's statement at the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy (HLPDWE) meeting on 16 May.

Anna also attended the Joint Ministers for Women and Trade meeting on 17 May, where she and Minister Penk (as Head of Delegation for Trade) delivered New Zealand's statement together on "Economic Empowerment of Women through Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Anna also spoke at a Global Trade and Gender Arrangement event on 15 May, hosted jointly by New Zealand and Peru, alongside representatives from Chile, Ecuador, and Canada. The event focused on women's access to trade opportunities and leadership. Anna spoke about New Zealand's OECD trade and gender review, New Zealand women's barriers to export, and highlighted the importance of all-women trade delegations and women in leadership.

Several meetings and dialogues were held alongside these meetings, covering topics such as trade and gender, financial inclusion, addressing gender-based violence including through ICTs, women and girls' participation in STEM, and gender and climate. These events align with Peru's host year priorities both within the Policy Project on Women and the Economy (PPWE) and across all APEC Committees.

The key objectives of the HLPDWE and the Joint Ministers for Women and Trade meeting were the Ministerial WEF statement and the Joint Ministerial Statement. Like the last few years, negotiations were challenging, but for the first time since 2020, consensus was reached for both statements. Separate Chair's statements were issued for both Ministerial statements, which discussed geopolitical issues and the importance of APEC as a platform for cooperation.

Statements:

- [Ministerial WEF Statement](#)
- [WEF Chair's Statement](#)
- [Joint Women and Trade Ministerial Statement](#)

We expect a second PPWE meeting will be held around the end of the year – usually in August. We also have confirmation that Korea will host APEC in 2025 and look forward to hearing about their host priorities later this year.

### **Australian budget 2024-2025**

On 14 May 2024, the Australian government released the [Women's Budget Statement](#) as part of the Treasury Budget papers. The statement forms part of the reporting framework for the country's first national strategy for gender equality, *Working for Women*.

In the Budget Statement, the Australian government signalled its continued investments in:

- ending gender-based violence and support women's safety
- valuing paid and unpaid care
- improving the accessibility and affordability of healthcare for women
- achieving women's meaningful participation in leadership, representation, and decision-making
- shifting the gendered attitudes and stereotypes that are limiting and harmful.

The Budget Statement provides:

- AUD\$1.1 billion to drive change to end violence and invest in women's safety, including funding the permanent Leaving Violence Programme, supporting the National Legal Assistance Partnership and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, and piloting the Age Assurance Pilot to Protect Children from Harmful Online Content.

- AUD\$7.8 billion in cost-of-living relief, including AUD\$1.1 billion over four years to pay superannuation on Government-funded Paid Parental Leave, helping address rental affordability challenges, and wiping around AUD\$3 billion from the Higher Education Loan Program debt.
- AUD\$13.9 million to provide and improve parenting support through the Raising Children Network, the Fathering Project, and the Brave Foundation's Supporting Expecting and Parenting Teens Programme.
- AUD\$87.2 million in workforce initiatives to support, attract and retain aged care staff.
- AUD\$1.6 billion over 11 years to support nursing, midwifery, teaching, and social work students in higher education and vocational education and training.
- AUD\$93.8 million to ensure a gender equal workforce, including scaling up the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Program and launching the Building Women's Careers program.
- AUD\$160 million towards investments in women's health, including AUD\$56.5 million to promote flexible, high quality and tailored maternity care, and AUD\$49.1 million to introduce longer consultation items for patients with complex gynaecological conditions.

**Ministerial Servicing**

**Policy advice and reports in progress**

Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Briefing	Potential international engagements in 2024	MW 23-24 0153	29/05

**Event and meeting briefings in progress**

Type	Title	Log number	Due date
Aide Memoire	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Leadership Summit	MW 23-24 0140	29/05
Aide Memoire	Champions for Change Summit	MW 23-24 0155	29/05

**Official Information Act requests in progress**

Subject	Log number	Due to requester
<b>Ministry OIA requests</b>		
ELT papers on redundancies - 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a) Research	MW DOIA 23-24 0039	06/06
Total remuneration of positions between \$95k and \$100k - 9(2)(a) Taxpayers Union	MW DOIA 23-24 0038	04/06
Spend on contractors - 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a) Research	MW DOIA 23-24 0037	23/05
<b>Ministerial OIA requests</b>		
Board appointments - 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a)	MW MOIA 23-24 0008	30/05

**Proactive release**

This Fortnightly Report will be considered for release within three months of publication, under the Ministry's 'proactive release of documents' policy.



**Kellie Coombes**  
Secretary for Women

22 May 2024



**Hon Louise Upston**  
Acting Minister for Women

Date: 20240624