

# Briefing

## Māori Women's Welfare League

<b>Date due to MO:</b>	15 March 2024	<b>Action required by:</b>	N/A
<b>Security level:</b>	IN CONFIDENCE	<b>Health Report number:</b>	H2024035853
<b>To:</b>	Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health		
<b>Consulted:</b>	Health New Zealand: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Māori Health Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Emma Prestidge	Group Manager, Family and Community Health, System Strategy and Policy	s 9(2)(a)

## Minister's office to complete:

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |  |

Comment:

# Briefing

## Māori Women's Welfare League

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**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Date:** 15 March 2024

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**To:** Hon Casey Costello

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### Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this briefing to provide you with background information about the Māori Women's Welfare League, to inform your response to their correspondence on 3 January to Hon Shane Reti regarding Conference Remits. This Ministerial correspondence was transferred to your office as women's health falls within your delegation.

### Summary

2. This briefing provides an outline of who the Māori Women's Welfare League (the League) are, their engagement with the Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora (the Ministry), Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) and the Māori Health Authority | Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority), and a summary of the draft correspondence in response to the League. The draft Ministerial includes acceptance of the League's request to meet but this is subject to your decision.

### Recommendations

We recommend you:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| a) <b>Agree</b> to meet with the Māori Women's Welfare League | <b>Yes/No</b> |
|---|---------------|



Emma Prestidge

**Group Manager, Family and  
Community Health Policy  
Strategy, Policy and Legislation**

Date: 14 March 2024

Hon Casey Costello

**Associate Minister of Health**

Date:

# Māori Women's Welfare League

## Background

- 1 The Māori Women's Welfare League Inc | Te Ropu Wāhine Māori Toko i te Ora (the League) wrote to Hon Shane Reti 3 January 2024 regarding remits they recently made at their 69<sup>th</sup> conference in October 2023.
- 2 The remits covered a range of health-related topics, and the correspondence requested a meeting with you at your earliest convenience.
- 3 This correspondence has been transferred to you as the Associate Health Minister responsible for women's health. A response to their request has been written by the Ministry of Health with input from Health NZ and the Māori Health Authority.

## Māori Women's Welfare League

- 4 The League was set up in 1951 to support Māori and their whānau, especially as they moved into cities. It is the only national charitable Māori Women's Organisation in New Zealand.
- 5 There are over 130 branches in New Zealand and four branches in Australia (Perth, Northern Queensland, New South Wales and Gold Coast).
- 6 The League is a key stakeholder in the health of wāhine Māori. The League remains concerned with the wellbeing of wāhine Māori and their whānau through advocacy, promotion and partnership with other organisations.
- 7 As a key stakeholder in women's health, we recommend that you meet with the League.

## Ministerial response to the Māori Women's Welfare League

- 8 The League has outlined eight remits that they would like to call into action. The areas include:
  - Ambulance funding
  - Dental care funding
  - Aged Residential Care for kaumātua
  - HPV Immunisations uptake
  - Reference to Māori rongoā/remedies in the Therapeutic Products Bill (now Act)
  - Menopause and gynaecological related health issues
  - Tāngata whaikaha Māori
  - Control measures of COVID-19 in schools
- 9 The Ministry has drafted a response that covers each of these topics. It outlines key areas of work and progress, including this Government's focus on improving aged residential care, therapeutic products legislation, immunisation uptake for children, and building on the lessons learned from COVID-19 to ensure we are well-placed to respond to any future pandemics.
- 10 Please find the response to the League attached at Appendix 1.

## **The Māori Women's Welfare League's recent engagement with health entities**

The Māori Women's Welfare League has engaged with health entities over the past 2 years. Some of this engagement includes:

### *The Māori Health Authority engagement:*

The Māori Health Authority holds the key relationship with the League as a Hauora partner. The Māori Health Authority's recent engagement with the league is as follows:

- The Māori Health Authority holds a legacy contract with the League for immunisation promotion which ends 30 June 2024.
- Members of the commissioning team attended a whakawhanaungatanga session with the partner in August 2023.
- Pae Ora programme managers have a relationship with the League as a Hauora partner
- The league was invited to an online hui and in-person workshop with partners on 29 Feb 2024.
- The Whānau voice team had actively engaged with the League for a probable contract for BSA Breast Screening Aotearoa.
- The Kahu Taurima (maternity and early years) programme has begun engagement with the League, however, this did not materialise into anything further as the project did not proceed.

### *Health New Zealand engagement:*

Health NZ has held multiple contracts with the League, however, these expired before 2021. The remaining contracts to the Māori Health Authority. Some of these contracts include community outreach, immunisation promotion, support for māmā and pēpi, healthy eating promotion and rheumatic fever prevention.

### *Ministry of Health engagement:*

The Ministry of Health has had little engagement with the League over the past year. The League was invited to participate in the consultation period of the Women's Health Strategy (published July 2023) by John Whaanga and Maree Roberts. The Ministry of Health did not receive a response from the League following this invitation, however, a submission was received from the Christchurch branch.

## **Next steps**

The Ministry can provide further advice if you decide to meet with the Māori Women's Welfare League.

**ENDS.**

## Minister's Notes

PROACTIVELY RELEASED