



An Invitation to Members of Parliament

Becoming a member of New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group
on Population and Development (NZPPD)





The New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) is a cross-party group that belongs to a global network of members of parliament (MPs) working on population and development issues.

NZPPD members, 2023



Dr Elizabeth Kerekere, Sarah Pallet, Lemauga Lydia Sosene,
Hon Rachel Brooking, Angie Warren-Clark, Hon Barbara Edmonds,
Hon Louise Upston



Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa

Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa (formerly Family Planning New Zealand) is the secretariat for NZPPD.

Contact the secretariat for more information or to join NZPPD

nzppd@sexualwellbeing.org.nz

www.sexualwellbeing.org.nz



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Why join the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development?

New Zealand and all United Nations member countries in the Pacific have committed to achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2030. NZPPD is open to MPs who are committed to addressing this and other population and development issues in the wider Pacific region. NZPPD members influence policymaking and advocate for sexual and reproductive health, the rights of women, and sustainable development.

NZPPD works with MPs across the globe and is a member of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Global Parliamentary Alliance for Health, Rights and Development (GPA). These parliamentary groups provide platforms for MPs across the Asia-Pacific region and around the world to advocate on issues relating to NZPPD's strategic areas.

“ Prioritising sexual and reproductive health and rights is key to improving the lives of women and girls. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are vital for a person's overall health and wellbeing and promote equitable access to education and economic opportunities. ”

Angie Warren-Clark, NZPPD Executive

UNFPA State of World Population Report Launch Breakfast at Parliament, 2023



Dr Emily Henderson,
Angie Warren Clark,
Björn Andersson –
UNFPA Asia-Pacific
Regional Office
Director,
Dr Liz Craig,
Hon Aupito
William Sio

The Pacific region has some of the highest rates of unmet need for contraception in the world

NZPPD Values

- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education is a human right and central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Every individual has the right to make their own choices about their sexual and reproductive health.
- Reducing unintended pregnancy, sexually transmissible infections (including HIV/AIDS), gender-based violence, barriers to exercising sexual and reproductive rights and addressing the risks climate change poses for SRHR outcomes are essential for achieving gender equality and sustainable development.
- Investing in SRHR is one of the most cost-effective approaches to sustainable development.
- Effective partnerships between governments and civil society organisations are essential to create integrated approaches for sustainable development.
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi is at the heart of NZPPD's work in the Pacific region to prioritise the protection and promotion of human rights and self-determination, and build respectful and collaborative partnerships.

Visit by UNFPA Executive Director, 2019

Contraceptive prevalence rates are under 50% in the Pacific region



Hon Louise Upston, Dr. Natalia Kanem (UNFPA)
Hon Anne Tolley, Anahila Kanongata'a

NZPPD's activities focus on the Pacific, in the following strategic areas:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including HIV/AIDS and maternal health
- Official development assistance
- Reducing gender inequality
- Sustainable development.

NZPPD/Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians 50% women parliamentarians in NZ celebration, 2022



Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan (presenting to attendees)

NZPPD activities include:

- Advocating for the prioritisation of SRHR in the Pacific region, e.g. building political engagement and commitment, raising SRHR matters at international meetings
- Participating in international meetings and conferences, e.g. ICPD25, and specialised parliamentary forums at the International Conference for Family Planning and Women Deliver
- Meeting with thematic experts, e.g. from UN Women Pacific, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and academic researchers
- Hosting special events at Parliament, e.g. open hearings, breakfast meetings with UNFPA, film screenings
- Meeting at Parliament four times per year to discuss issues relating to SRHR and gender equality in the Pacific region.

SRHR in the Pacific

Maternal mortality in the Pacific could be reduced by 30% if all women who wanted contraception had access to it

Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) face considerable SRHR challenges including high rates of unintended and adolescent pregnancy, and low contraceptive prevalence. These challenges are taking place in the context of high rates of gender-based violence, some of the lowest levels of political participation of women globally, increased pressures on the environment and resources, large youth populations and high rates of urbanisation and population growth.

Across PICTs, there is a lack of information and strategies related to access to contraception, comprehensive sexuality education provision and the management and funding of contraceptive supplies.¹ Contraceptive prevalence rates are under 50%² but we know that many women either want to avoid having any more children or want to delay the birth of their next child. This unmet need for contraception is amongst the highest in the world, and based on global estimates maternal mortality could be reduced by up to 30% if all women who wanted contraception had access to it.³

While these SRHR challenges continue to exist, sexual and reproductive health outcomes in the Pacific region are improving. Encouragingly, over the past 20 years maternal health outcomes have improved in some PICTs, however there is inadequate data available to properly interrogate the true burden of maternal morbidity and mortality.⁴ While the Pacific region has some of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world, a readiness to address and prevent violence is emerging in Pacific communities.⁵

The New Zealand Government in partnership with Pacific Governments is committed to supporting SRHR outcomes in the Pacific region.

1 European Parliamentary Forum (2023), Global Contraception Policy Atlas

2 Dawson, A. et al. (2021), How do Pacific Island countries add up on contraception, abortion and reproductive coercion? Guidance from the Guttmacher report on investing in sexual and reproductive health

3 Ahmed, S. et al. (2012), Maternal deaths averted by contraceptive use: an analysis of 172 countries

4 Vallely, L. M. et al. (2022), Improving maternal and newborn health and reducing stillbirths in the Western Pacific Region – current situation and the way forward

5 UN Women (2020), New data on women's experiences and men's perpetration of violence inform approaches to prevent family violence in South Tarawa, Kiribati

NZPPD Background

NZPPD was established in 1998 by the late Hon Katherine O'Regan, Minister of Health, in response to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Programme of Action (PoA).

The 1994 ICPD was attended by 179 governments who called for reproductive health, women's empowerment, and gender equality to become integral to sustainable development efforts.

The ICPD PoA continues to be of relevance to NZPPD's strategic priorities, together with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs comprise 17 goals adopted by the United Nations to achieve universal sustainable development. New Zealand and the other 192 United Nations member states have committed to achieve the 17 goals and 169 social, economic and environmental targets by 2030.



The SDGs and NZPPD's strategic priorities: SDG 3 (health and wellbeing) and SDG 5 (gender equality) include targets that relate specifically to SRHR:

- **Target 3.7** calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- **Target 5.6** also calls for universal access to SRHR in accordance with the ICPD PoA and related commitments.

“ Gender equality and women's empowerment are core objectives of New Zealand's approach to effective and sustainable development. Gender advocacy priorities support enhancing women and girls' education and health, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, supporting approaches to prevent gender-based violence, and increasing economic participation and representation in leadership and politics. ”

New Zealand's Gender Action Plan 2021-2025



New Zealand and all United Nations member countries in the Pacific have committed to achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2030.



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