



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 16
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Zonta District 16 Advocacy Report for 2014-16 Biennium May 2016

Goal 1

To support and raise the profile of the Zonta Says No campaign through Club activities and by collaboration with other organisations involved in this area.

Clubs have engaged in many and varied activities and awareness campaigns, often in collaboration with other organisations. The result of this is that Zonta's profile has increased and Club members have become more familiar with issues around violence against women. The District 16 project is the Sophie Elliot Foundation where we help cover the costs for the "Loves Me Not" booklet used as part of a course NZ Police run with senior students in schools. The programme aims to educate young people about identifying signs of abusive behaviour, what steps they can take, and what are appropriate behaviours. This project has been successful for the Foundation with the fundraising target of \$50,000 already achieved. Supporting the Sophie Elliot Foundation has given Clubs the opportunity to run fundraising events and invite Lesley Elliot (our Woman of the Biennium) to speak at club meetings about intimate partner violence.

A Violence against Women is a Workplace Issue "Toolkit" of information has been developed and is available on the D16 website for use. This work was largely based on a research project Productivity Gains from Workplace Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence. (Snively, Ku, Kahui. 2014). This Toolkit is being promoted more widely this year as it complements our work on the Women's Empowerment Principles and suits Zonta's membership demographic of professional women. In collaboration with National Council of Women and Graduate Women Wellington, the Wellington Club has held a politicians debate on the topic which generated national media coverage and the ZI Newsletter!

Seven clubs made online submissions to *Strengthening NZ's Response on Family Violence* initiated by the Minister for Justice.

Our Mana and Wellington Clubs have taken responsibility for the Violence against Women part of the NGO Alternate CEDAW report due to be completed this year. Dr Judy Whitcombe has taken overall responsibility for this work.

Another submission was made via NCWNZ – *Violence against Women: A Just and safe Aotearoa*

Goal 2

Raise our advocacy profile by attendance at key events and increasing member participation in advocacy.

I ran an advocacy workshop at the D16 Conference that was attended by about 50 members from a variety of clubs. This was followed up by attending three area meetings this year and running workshops on advocacy. Two of these meetings had Advocacy as their key theme. Zonta is invited to the Ministry for Women's International Caucus meetings.

We have attended Suffrage Day events and the Girl Guides "Take Back the Night" rallies. Zonta has been invited to be a member of a cross-parliamentary Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) group of NZ.

Zonta has been invited to join UN Women, the EEO-Human Rights trust and Business and Professional Women's NZ committee to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles. The majority of our Clubs voted to support a D16 submission compiled by Helen Bowie on the *Parental Leave Bill: extension to six months paid leave and work contact hours*. Zonta had previously made a submission in support of increasing parental leave in 2013 and from April 1st this year it has been extended by two weeks!

The committee has been busy attending many more presentations and events such as; the PPTA (Post Primary Schools) Conference, the launch of NCWNZ's "White Paper"; *Enabling Women's Potential – the social, economic, and ethical imperative*, Ruth Gammon presenting on *Family Violence: Its Socio-Economic Impact on NZ*, Shamima Ali – *Prevent Family Violence – A Pacific Perspective*, The EEO Trust Birthday Launch, UN Women's *He for She* campaign launch, *26 for Babies* meetings.

Goal 3

To increase advocacy activity at a local club level by gathering information on local projects and activities that can be shared in a bi - monthly update or through district newsletter and website.

Various articles and updates have appeared in the D16 Newsletter.

Website has copies of submissions that we have made and Toolkit.

Clubs have actively been using Facebook to promote events and raise profiles.

Goal 4

Continue work in relation to Govt Policy that affects the Status of Women through submissions and collaborative activities with UN Women, NCWNZ, Pacific Women's Watch and Zonta International. Continue involvement with the CEDAW, Beijing+20 reports and UN Millennium Development Goals.

Zonta contributed to a meeting organised by NCWNZ and UN Women to assess progress against the Beijing +20 report.

Submissions completed via NCWNZ:

- *Informing a Draft Gender Equality Strategy*
- *Inquiry into the 2014 General Election*
- *Discrimination: Enabling a Fair Go for All*

- *Enabling Women's potential – the economic, social and ethical imperative for NZ* (White Paper)

Submission made to the Ministry of Social Development's – *NZ's fifth periodic report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child*

Zonta's goals are closely aligned with our Ministry of Women, "where the Ministers priorities for the Women's portfolio are –

- Supporting more women and girls in education and training
- Utilising women's skills and growing our economy
- Encouraging and developing women leaders
- Ensuring women and girls are free from violence". (Source - the minutes from the International Women's Caucus. 17/2/16)

Finally, I would like to thank the D16 Advocacy committee; Jenny Brash, Dr Judy Whitcombe and Helen Bowie for all their work and special thanks to Governor Janette Irvine for her help and guidance over the last biennium.

Christine Cook
Advocacy Chair Zonta D16