



TO: FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE

ON: INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE ADAPTATION

16 JUNE 2024

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This submission is from Zonta International District 16 Incorporated (*Zonta D16*).

ABOUT ZONTA D16

- 2 [Zonta D16](#) has been active in New Zealand for over 50 years. We are the New Zealand District of Zonta International (which comprises 32 Districts and has a presence in more than 60 countries worldwide).
- 3 Zonta D16 is an organisation of professionals working together through service and advocacy to build a better world for women and girls. We envision a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.
- 4 Zonta D16 actively supports the [Zonta Says NOW](#) campaign which raises awareness of the gender-related consequences of climate change.

MAIN POINTS

- 5 Zonta D16 urges the Committee to take into account the specific issues related to women in developing and recommending high-level objectives and principles for the design of a climate change adaptation model for Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 6 Zonta D16 believes that equity is a key principle that must be applied in the climate change adaptation design. "Equity" provides a basis for understanding how the impacts of, and responses to, climate change (including costs and benefits) are distributed in and by society in more or less equal ways. Part of this is understanding how those impacts and policies are distributed across gender.
- 7 Women in Aotearoa New Zealand are disproportionately affected by climate change, primarily because:
 - 7.1 women overall have less resources, in part because of the effects of the gender pay gap;
 - 7.2 women bear the vast majority of the unpaid caregiving roles, which increases their vulnerability when climate emergencies strike; and
 - 7.3 women will be more likely than men to be affected by, and vulnerable to, family violence during, and in the aftermath of, a climate emergency. By way of example, an escalation in family violence affecting women occurred following Cyclone Gabrielle.¹

¹ [Women's Refuge says 'no surprise' family harm up 60pct since Cyclone Gabrielle | Newshub](#)

- 8 We believe that community-led grass roots adaptation and managed retreat should be central to climate adaptation plans. In this context, decision-making should always take into account the costs and benefits of adaptation plans for women. This step is part of the process of ensuring that equity underpins the climate adaptation outcomes.
- 9 There are risks that managed retreat can exacerbate gender inequality. Again, careful attention to gender issues will be key to avoiding a perverse outcome. Having women in strategic planning and decision-making roles at the local level will help ensure that the interests of women in the community are not overlooked.

CONCLUSION

- 10 In designing a fair approach to climate change adaptation, the Committee should apply gender lens across all proposals to ensure that the interests of the women of Aotearoa New Zealand are taken into account and protected.