

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



An invitation to Members of Parliament



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SRHR conference in Nairobi 2019.

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

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

NZPPD is open to Members of Parliament who are committed to addressing population and development issues in the wider Pacific region. NZPPD members influence policy-making and advocate for sexual and reproductive health, the rights of women, and sustainable development.

NZPPD works with Parliamentarians 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).

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

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including HIV/AIDS
- Official development assistance
- Improving the status of women
- Sustainable development

NZPPD activities include:

- Advocating for a stronger sexual and reproductive health framework in the Pacific
- Participating in international meetings and conferences
- Meeting with thematic experts
- Hosting open hearings and special events

" NZPPD provides the opportunity to discuss the issue of sexual and reproductive health rights in a framework that is respectful of the cultural context that supports robust discussions."

Hon Poto Williams, former NZPPD Chair

Background to NZPPD

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 health-care 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.

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

SRHR in the Pacific

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

An estimated 25 per cent of married or partnered women in the Pacific region are not using a modern form of contraception but report either not wanting any more children or wanting to delay the birth of their next child. This unmet need for contraception is amongst the highest in the world.

While these SRHR challenges do exist, sexual and reproductive health outcomes in the Pacific region are improving. For example, the maternal mortality rate in the Asia-Pacific region has dropped by 56% over the

past 20 years.

Increasing access to family planning has been identified as a development priority by a number of Pacific Governments, including Tonga and Kiribati. The New Zealand Government is also committed to support its Pacific neighbours to improve SRHR outcomes.



Pacific and NZ MPs meeting in Wellington, 2019

New Zealand's International Human Rights Advocacy Priorities include taking a leadership role in gender equality and women's empowerment, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal mortality and morbidity, leadership and political participation.



Kiribati Family Health Association advocacy meeting at Abakoro village. Attending were Island councillors and chairmen from all the villages in North Tarawa. August 2019.

Family Planning New Zealand is the secretariat for the NZPPD

Contact the secretariat for more information or to join NZPPD:

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