

24 April 2012

Hon Tariana Turia MP
(address)

E te rangatira tēnā koe

Thank you for meeting with National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges representatives Wenda Parata-Muir, Ang Jury, Heather Henare and Denise Reynolds. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you again to fully discuss the issues raised in our Briefing for the incoming Minister.

Housing NZ

We appreciate you meeting today to discuss our concerns regarding Housing NZ and the impact of the policies and criteria on women and children who are survivors of family violence requiring a fundamental need – a home. We are concerned that women and children who are already on the poverty line are further at risk when private housing is unaffordable and state housing is unavailable. We are aware that there are changes in the management of social housing but have not succeeded in gaining further information.

Te Roopu Whakaruruhau o Ngā Wāhine

We discussed also the membership affiliation and compliance for being a member of NCIWR. Te Roopu Whakaruruhau o Ngā Wāhine Māori were deemed insolvent at 30 June 2011 and they did not advise us of their situation. We were notified by their auditor Cotton Kelly, when they had tried on many occasions to meet and discuss remedial actions with that refuge. Offers of support from national office and their sisters in Te Upoko o Te Ika were refuted. The decision to put the refuge on notice was the only opportunity forward for both the refuge and national office to plan and implement their future.

At no time has Palmerston North Women's Refuge instigated actions, initiated discussion or defamed TRW. Regrettably, PNWR has had to respond to the community to provide services for Māori where there was nowhere else for wāhine and tamariki to turn.

Attached are several pieces of correspondence in chronological order. While Te Whakaruruhau of Hamilton and Te Whānau Awhina were seconded to their Collective in March, we did not get to hear the local voice of the Collective who were involved with the decision making for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The engagement of a financial adviser here in Wellington was a good start. That adviser has stated that TRW can recover from this, but with no substance about how that can be achieved.

As the national body we have on numerous occasions tried unsuccessfully to assist them, offers of support have also come from the Lower Northern Region.

Te Whakaruruhau's has taken the position to rescue a flagging refuge and then mix up the politics of the membership. This stance doesn't address the underlying issues within a troubled refuge. That refuge will go from a confident and recoverable standing to an uncooperative and litigious state. This fuels perceptions that NCIWR process is punitive, aggressive and lacks cultural sensitive. The refuge is turned from

accepting its troubles and deciding its own future to an aggrieved and defensive state. Being a member of this Collective carries with it integrity, transparency and accountability to the women and children who use our services and the funders, sponsors and donors who have expectations that we practice these too.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Māua noa, nā

Denise Reynolds
Kaiwhakahaere

Heather Henare
Chief Executive

Cc: Wenda Parata-Muir, Ang Jury

Cc: Puala Bennet

Cc: Murray Elveridge??