



RWNZ REMITS 2019

IR1: INTERNAL REMIT ONE: RWNZ AGM AND CONFERENCE

That Rural Women New Zealand Inc. hold a National AGM on every even numbered calendar year and that on every odd numbered calendar year a combined AGM and Conference be held, hosted in different regions.

Proposed by: Sharron Davie-Martin **Seconded by:** Elsa Hydes

Rationale: In the past 12 months RWNZ has held 2 National AGM's/ Summits and a National Conference. As well as being very expensive these events have involved members taking days away from family and business commitments. As a result, numbers at these events have all been well below what was expected. As we know the 2018 AGM failed to reach a quorum of members attending and as a result there was even more expense as voting papers had to be sent out to all members. By having an AGM only, every alternate year, preferably in Wellington, means those who can only manage a short time away from other commitments can still be involved. It can be a fly in fly out one day event thus keeping time and expense to a minimum. The combined AGM and Conference on the alternate year can then be a much larger grander event with the time taken to really showcase RWNZ. By taking this AGM/Conference concept out to the region's members can be involved in the organisation of the event and have an opportunity to personalise the Conference to their area.

November is a busy time of year so dates and localities need to be set well in advance so members can then start the future planning to attend.

Objectives: As an organisation we want to be inclusive and be seen to involve as many as possible in the work of the organisation.

Action Plan: Can be activated once passed at the AGM.

Financial Implications to RWNZ: Do not envisage any additional costs than currently being worn through this Remit being approved.

IR2: INTERNAL REMIT TWO: RESTRUCTURE AGM/SUMMIT AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

That Rural Women New Zealand Inc update structure and purpose of the AGM and conferences of RWNZ, to be implemented for 2020.

Proposed by: Raewyn van Vugt **Seconded by:** Judy Kingan

Rationale:

1. To boost numbers attending AGM/ Summit and conferences by
 - a. streamlining costs for both members and National Office to make it affordable for all
 - b. include business matters, management matters at AGM/ Summit, with information provided to help understand the structure, benefits and purpose of Rural Women NZ.

2. Bolster the profile of Regional Conferences as a time to network, socialise and freely discuss issues from all levels of the organisation.

Objective: AGM/Summit to be held annually in Wellington, Regional conferences replace a National Conference, and that they be open to all members, with a commitment from Board that at least one board member attend each Regional Conference.

Action Plan:

- To unite members at grassroots level
- To increase numbers attending events at all levels
- To have clarification of rolls for Board, Leadership Council, Area Managers and members of RWNZ.
- Have all important dates on a database on Website for all to see.
- Have agendas for ALL conferences easily accessible on website

Financial Implications to RWNZ:

- Costs streamlined at all levels
- Templates set up for uniformity of regional conferences
- Improved, increased sponsorship of RWNZ

ER1: EXTERNAL REMIT ONE: BOARD ALLOWANCE

That Rural Women New Zealand Inc. pursue the raising of the Boarding Allowance to \$8000 then annually in line with inflation.

Proposed by: Ruth Thomson **Seconded by:** Louise Rockell

Rationale:

- There has only been one small increase of \$75 (2014) in 15 years and in that time costs have increase about 35% (www.rbnz.govt.nz)
- The allowance for multiple barriers is \$8000. Why the difference?
- Boarding costs are a huge barrier for farm employees. Families are moving closer to towns when children are ready for college. We have lost two families recently for this reason Eg Nelson College has downsized its boarding facilities.
- Families unwilling to move to rural areas. Local farm sale fell through because of the costs of secondary education. This is a significant loss to the social wellbeing and results in economical lost opportunity to rural communities.
- Mental health and stress for farmers trying to finance education.
- Mental health of employees having to re-train to live in town.

Objective:

- The purpose of the Ministry of Education (in New Zealand) is to provide “an education system that delivers equitable and excellent outcomes” www.education.govt.nz.

Secondary education for rural children is not equitable because of prohibitive costs involved. We want a fair deal.

Action Plan:

- RWNZ meet with (if practical) the Minister and Associates of Education, Minister for Rural Communities. Also, opposition Spokespersons and Associates of Education and Rural Communities
- Invite like-minded organisations to support a joint collaboration to influence Government
- See if Rural support Trust can help in any way
- Encourage Members to use their voice to influence local MPs.

ER2: EXTERNAL REMIT TWO: HEALTH SERVICES RESTRUCTURE

That Rural Women New Zealand commends the Minister of Health for establishing the Health and Disability Systems Review and seeks major restructuring to establish no more than six future regional funding and delivery structures to replace the current 20 District Health Boards.

Proposed by: Jo Gravit

Seconded by: Sue Vowell

Rationale: While this Heather Simpson led review seeks commendable outcomes and will first report in August 2019, the current complex health and disability system cannot be sustained through small modifications to the many existing structures

RWNZ notes the Review is seeking *“better balance towards wellness, access, equity and sustainability”* with more equitable outcomes. We strongly support the Ministry of Health definition of equity which in summary says *“Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes”*

This requires a cultural shift and more collaboration of the health and social services sectors in order to better support the most disadvantaged and isolated. RWNZ seeks more integrated funding streams, with far less delivery/contracting systems so that better monitoring and early interventions occur especially in less easily accessed populations. A small number of health regions would facilitate this

In 2018/19 Vote Health received one fifth of government expenditure totalling \$18.2 million. 72.6% went to District Health Boards and 16.1% to Ministry of Health funded health and disability services

Current funding models favour hospital care with under investment in prevention and local community based care. DHBs already have a huge investment in hospital capacity and treatment based services, but extra costs arise for primary and community care, especially if seeking integrated wellbeing outcomes with the social support sector rather than the current fragmented systems

The Briefing to the Incoming Minister 2017 stated that 50% of the influence on health needs are from social determinants – e.g. poverty, poor transport and unsatisfactory housing. There were 31 Primary Health Organisations and 1013 General Primary Practices and 225 Maori health providers. We have a population of well under five million and have very complex institutional and community arrangements with geographic boundaries not well reflecting peoples’ movements or the changing nature of expectations and technologies

Our health indicators show we are not performing well compared to other high income countries. As a rural women's organisation we believe that equity must be better incentivised and with more focus on consistency of service access wherever one lives or one's level of vulnerability.

Objectives: To rationalise policy and administration and ensure more consistent delivery of health services.

Action Plan: Rural Women New Zealand to become active advocates in the current review process and to provide supporting information to stakeholders and to regional leaders and members.

Financial Implications to RWNZ: Nil except staff time within current roles.

ER3: EXTERNAL REMIT 3: RURAL SCHOOLS - COUNSELLING

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc urges the Government to provide funding and practical professional support and/or counselling services to rural schools and Principals so ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and family.

Proposed by: Sue Higgins

Seconded by: Zelda De Villiers

Rationale: Many of our rural schools are remote, small and often struggle to get staff, support staff and have a small pool of caregivers to call on for such things as the Board, practical help and fundraising

Recently at the Rural Principals' Conference Sue Higgins and Fiona Gower heard from a number of the Principals about these issues- the stress it places on them, their staff and the students.

It is recognised that often the school is the heart of a community, so we need to support the schools to support the communities.

Financial support is required to attract and keep staff, whether that is for the Principal, teachers, or support staff. In sole charge schools it is a real Health and Safety issue having just one adult at the school at any one time- there should be at least 2 at all times for the protection of the students and of the staff member- as per the vulnerable children's act 2014.

These schools are often a long way from urban areas where suppliers, contractors and support networks are based- so these schools are required to pay more for services, wait unacceptable timeframes, or have no one willing to travel to their location. This is not just for maintenance of the school property, but also for services for children with special needs, counselling for students, staff and caregivers and other vital services to keep the school community strong.

All schools have access to high speed internet, which could be used in this case for delivering services over the internet, along with on-site visits.

Extra financial assistance is vital, as is more on the ground support

Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals is Quality Education, Goal 11 is Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 1 of the RWNZ Strategy is Empowered Rural Communities, where we mention Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities, as well as Excellent Rural Services and Infrastructure. Goal 7 Authoritative Rural Voice, gives us a voice for these schools and their communities.

Objectives: To improve the support to our rural schools, the staff, pupils, their caregivers and the community, and ensuring that both school and community feel supported and strengthened

Action Plan: RWNZ meet with Ministries of Education and Rural Communities, their respective MP's and other relevant parties. Encourage Members to see how they can get involved in their local schools to support them and see what their needs are- perhaps giving time, supporting funding, being a voice for them

Financial Implications to RWNZ: Nil extra- BAU within current Office budget

ER4: EXTERNAL REMIT FOUR: RURAL COMMUNITIES - COUNSELLING

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. urge the Government to provide free or at the very least, affordable, counselling services to rural communities.

Proposed by: Fiona Gower **Seconded by:** Gill Naylor

Rationale: Noting the significant and ongoing impact in the last five years the loss and closure of Relationships Aotearoa (the largest national provider of services) and the loss of the 6 free counselling sessions which were available and accessed through Courts.

With changes in the rural sector from such things as climate change, adverse events and market volatility, the pressure on rural families and communities has increased.

We were astonished to learn that services have been reduced in rural communities and we see an urgent need to have them return.

Objectives: This remit meets the following strategic goal: Goal 1: Empowered rural communities, communities are strong and independent, particularly the following aims: empowering women and children, advancing social and economic wellbeing of rural communities, good health and wellbeing for all ages, viable and sustainable rural environments and excellent rural services and infrastructure.

Action Plan:

- RWNZ to determine which regions have lost the services and when so that each RWNZ Region can approach those in their region who might be involved in making these decisions.
- RWNZ to provide an 'Authoritative Voice' Pack to regions to support Members in their conversations about this issue.
- RWNZ to advocate via letters and meetings to the Prime Minister, Minister of Rural Communities and Minister of Health.

Financial Implications to RWNZ: Within current staff resourcing.

ER5: EXTERNAL REMIT FIVE: RURAL PROOFING

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. urge the Government to apply their rural proofing guidelines to the decision making on environmental issues to ensure that all rural voices are included.

Proposed by: Gill Naylor **Seconded by:** Zelda De Villiers

Rationale: The Government is making progress on its goal to take care of the environment which is clear by recent announcements on legislation, national standards and other tools to do so. The response from interest groups, especially the negative responses, could be avoided if all rural voices were involved in a rural proofing exercise at the development stage. Recognition of the inclusion of all rural voices not just special interest groups is vital by policy makers.

Objectives: This remit meets the RWNZ Strategic Goal, Authoritative voice.

Action Plan: Fits in to current work plans

Financial Implications to RWNZ: BAU

ER6: EXTERNAL REMIT SIX: GENDER PROOFING

THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. urge the Government to ensure Cabinet, all Ministries and Departments to utilise the new gender analysis tool provided by Ministry for Women, 'Bringing Gender In' alongside the Rural Proofing Guideline provided by the Ministry of Primary Industries to ensure the intersectionality of being women and living in rural New Zealand are taken in to account in policy and law making.

Proposed by: Fiona Gower - National President

Seconded by: Gill Naylor

Rationale: The UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women dictates that gender analysis is undertaken by the Government on all policy and legislation. The concluding comments on last year's CEDAW expand on that because New Zealand's civil society have been reporting that it is not happening.

RWNZ has been a long-time supporter of rural proofing and were involved in the discussions around the new guidelines which this Government put in place early on in their term. We are pleased that Government departments are now consulting with us and so this part of the system is working for the most part.

RWNZ always request both a gender impact and rural impact analysis in our submissions and we feel that a remit will give us to do more around calling for such analyses to be completed, especially in line with the concluding recommendation as below:

Definition of equality and non-discrimination

11. The Committee notes that the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (section 19(1)), the Human Rights Act 1993 (section 21(1)(a)) prohibit sex-based discrimination in the public and private spheres, including indirect discrimination. However, the Committee is concerned that the State party's legislation on discrimination against women is not fully in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned:

(a) About the lack of specific prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics;

(b) That only policy papers submitted to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee must include a gender implications statement, and that disclosure statements are not mandatory for all Government Bills and substantive Supplementary Order Papers;

(c) That legislations adopted in the State Party are generally gender-neutral, which may result in loss of the specificity of gender based discrimination, inadequate protection of women against direct and indirect discrimination and impede the achievement of substantive equality of women and men.

12. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention and drawing the attention of the State party to target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, the Committee recommends:**

(a) **Amend section 21(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act with a view to including specific prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics;**

(b) **Enact the Legislation Bill to ensure that disclosure statements become binding legal obligation for all Government bills and instruments and ensure their compliance with international human rights standards;**

(c) **The Committee further recommends that the State Party include a gender-specific rather than gender-neutral approach in its legislation, policies and programmes, in line with paragraph 5 of the Committee's general recommendation No. 28.**

Objectives: This remit supports Sustainable Development Goal 5 Gender Equality and RWNZ Strategic Goals 1 and 3. In order to empower rural communities, both the public and private sector need to analyse the impact of their policies, plans and practices might have on women and girls in rural New Zealand. This remit will give RWNZ the mandate to continue our authoritative voice for rural people influencing positive change for rural people and communities.

Action Plan: RWNZ will continue to include the request for both gender and rural impact analyses on policies, plans and practices in the public sector, and also the private sector as appropriate.

Financial Implications to RWNZ: No financial implications