

Representative on the National Council of Women

Hello all!

I have had the pleasure and privilege to be our branches representative at the Christchurch Branch of the National Council of Women. I am the Convenor of the branch Poetry competition and also a local executive member. I tend to feedback information on a fairly regular basis and I remember how long these meetings are so will summarise our activities -

- Conference 2018 - I was sent to this conference in Wellington by National Office. I spoke on the floor about the Pay Equity dispute, about Family Violence and Intersectional politics. I also joined workshops on Privilege, Cultural safety, Access to Abortion and again Pay Equity. I spoke whenever the opportunity was appropriate and repeated our Pay Equity issues. I had my photo taken with Helen Clark which was fun and had a good chat with Kiritapu Allan - an amazing MP.
- Period Poverty Suffrage event - NCW and us in the shape of me organised a Suffrage day Period Poverty event at CoCa which had a great turn out and was frankly a jolly success. Moving speakers, great vibe and work for the community. We also raised a fair amount of money and bought My Cup - menstrual cups which was basically a 2 for 1 deal - these are stored at the MRC and are free to women who need them - sister Midwives please avail yourselves of them for your clients.
- Period Poverty campaign - as a branch we are working on this at a National and Local level. We are pushing for the council to provide free sanitary towels in libraries and sporting venues and we have put a remit into the 2019 National Conference asking for the government to provide free sanitary towels in schools.
- Response to the Mosque attacks - see NCW facebook page and Christchurch Aunties. We collected a large amount of food for the survivors and families of the Mosque attacks, working with the Christchurch Aunties who passed this over to Jumayah Jones, the Women's Coordinator.
- Fundraised \$1000 for Shakti to support their work with survivors of the attack.
- Been on various marches and events, wearing both hats and as myself. I was on National Radio and quoted as 'community midwife..'
- Assisted in the clean up and recycling of Linwood Mosque flowers
- Letter and links sent to community regarding NCW's perspective on gun registration
- Added to submissions on the Abortion law reform act and many other pieces of legislation - too many to list.
- The meal for survivor women that I was organising was cancelled late in the day because the women have gone on the Hajj.

Future plans and possibilities -

- Attending 2019 Conference; will speak to the Period Poverty and bring up our pay issues at any and every opportunity - as ever
- Jumayah Jones is having a pamper day for Muslim women survivors and widows on the 8th September and is looking for anyone to help with Massages, mai/pedi, hair, makeup,

henna anything you can think of really. Contact Jumayah on 0210409131 (shared with permission).

- I keep being asked to be the National Health Convenor for NCW - am not sure if I have time but it would be a great role for a midwife to do as we get to do submission to parliament about pretty much any piece of Health legislation we choose. What a great place for a midwifery voice
- 30 year Midwifery celebration and first Museum for Birth, Birth Practices and Midwifery. I have been banging on about this for years and we are running out of time!!!! There is no museum for birth any where in the world!! There are museums for everything except us - hum! Unfortunately I have no time to pursue my dream - sigh!

I am happy to continue in this role if you want me too

All the best

Sheena