

Dianne Glenn

*BPW New Zealand
Asia-Pacific Region*

BPW International
Health and Wellbeing
Taskforce
Chair Luisa Monini

*Equality for
women and girls
with disabilities
(SDG N. 10)*



BPW INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMAN



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BPW NZ OBJECTIVES AIMED AT HELPING WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- **Ensure that benefits paid by the Government to people with disabilities are adequate** to cover all basic living costs, since at the moment many people are not enjoying a reasonable quality of life without having to remove certain items from their budgets - e.g. meat, and travel outside the home if under 65 years of age.



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Objective: advocate for women who give up paid employment to care for a disabled (or seriously ill/dying) family member, adult, child, husband, partner.



They do not qualify for any remuneration, and therefore cannot save for retirement. This is particularly difficult if they do not have a mortgage free home and have to pay rental for accommodation.



If the disabled person had a caregiver from outside the family home or if the disabled person needed to go into a facility for care, expenses are covered or greatly subsidised.

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Some of the difficulties people with disabilities have to face:

- Some are needing to sell their homes and move to an area where real estate is cheaper, therefore losing family and friends support network.
- Once all NZ residents are aged 65 years, superannuation/pension is paid at a higher rate than the benefits to which they are entitled, and public transport is free outside peak hours.

BPW NZ OBJECTIVES AIMED AT REDUCING PERINATAL DEPRESSION AND FASD

- **To provide targeted spending on early intervention services** including funded counselling for women with mild-moderate perinatal depression/anxiety who do not meet Maternal Mental Health criteria.
- **Provide mandatory funded professional development training** for midwives and Well Child / Tamariki Ora Providers so that they can improve identification, screening and referrals of women showing signs of Perinatal Depression and Anxiety.
- **Taking action on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder:** give priority to training NZ medical and neuropsychological consultants in the diagnosis and management of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (“FASD”) and to make funding available for this purpose to grant to FASD children and their caregivers’ eligibility for Work & Income Disability Allowances.