

Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

February 2025

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (3 Day Postnatal Stay) Amendment Bill.

We support the kaupapa to improve the accessibility of postnatal care, extending the provision of funded inpatient postnatal care to 72 hours post-delivery. We also support the provision requiring that mothers be made aware of this entitlement and can make informed choices about their postnatal stay.

We note the following regarding this Bill:

1. Alignment with domestic and international frameworks focused on child wellbeing

This Bill aligns with New Zealand's commitments under Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which speaks to the role that appropriate pre and postnatal care plays in realising children's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. It also aligns with domestic strategies such as the Child & Youth Strategy, which prioritises supporting children and their families and whānau within the first 2,000 days.

2. Adequacy of resourcing

We share concerns raised during the first reading of the Bill regarding the availability of health funding and workforce conditions needed to ensure the aspirations of this Bill can be realised. It will be important that the Bill is adequately resourced, and midwifery staff well supported to ensure that postnatal care can be delivered safely, and the Bill does not place further pressure on an already stretched workforce.

Ko wai tātou | Who we are

NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 230 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. Our mission is to call forth a just and compassionate society for Aotearoa, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website - www.nzccss.org.nz.

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