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For immediate use

The gender pay gap needs addressing

The New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPWNZ) joins over 25 other community organisations, women's groups and unions today to challenge the government to close the gender pay gap.

"It's vital for the economy to close the gender pay gap", says Angela McLeod, BPWNZ President, "as it will increase the productivity of nearly 50% of the workforce"

BPWNZ has been lobbying on issues affecting women for 70 years and in 1957 joined with the NZ Federation of Graduate Women to form the Council for Equal Pay and Opportunity.

"We fought then, and we fight again now as part of a coalition committed to the pay equity challenge", says Mrs McLeod.

"We have three challenges for the government; change the legislation so that it addresses the gender pay gap, increase the productivity of New Zealand's economy by addressing the gender pay gap and thirdly, listen to the women of New Zealand.

"We call on the government to listen to us. If you really want to get New Zealand out of the recession, close the gender pay gap. The gender pay gap is real and its unfair..."

ENDS

For more information or to schedule an interview please contact Angela McLeod direct on 027 497 2761