



CENTENARY 1902 - 2002

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Dr Jacqueline Goodall
Legislation and Policy Officer
Legislation Review
Public Health\Department of Human Services
GPO Box 1670N
Melbourne VIC 3001

**Re: Review of the Health Act 1958 A new legislative framework
for public health in Victoria**

Dear Dr Goodall,

The National Council of Women of Victoria (NCWV) is an umbrella organization for women and provides a diverse forum for the exchange of information and ideas. As individuals and affiliated groups, we have worked together to achieve lasting change for women and families.

The NCWV welcomes the review of the Health Act 1958. It is important to see that proposed new legislation is based on a new public health model based on the WHO broad definition of health, **Maintaining the health of the population and seeking the incidence of disease, premature death and disability.** This approach allows the development of strategies aimed at addressing the underlying environmental, social and behavioural determinants of death and disability.

The new Act should recognise the importance of promoting public health through a focus on the practices that seek to improve the health of populations as set out on p.6 within the overarching framework elements (p.9) of the discussion paper. The Act should be renamed as 'Public Health Act'.

The NCWV supports in principle the proposed new legislative framework for public health in Victoria.

The NCWV would like to be kept informed of the proposed legislative changes including any further calls for public comment.

Yours sincerely

Rysia Rozen OAM
President