

Speak Up For Women NZ: Sex Self-Identification Survey

This survey was commissioned by Speak Up For Women NZ and conducted by Buzz Channel Ltd between 7 – 21 February 2019.

The online survey was hosted on Buzz Channel's survey platform, and a sample of 1,002 New Zealanders aged 18 years and over completed the survey, giving a margin of error of +/- 3% at the 95% confidence level. Quotas were imposed to ensure the sample was nationally representative by age, sex and region according to the 2013 Census data.

The survey was conducted towards the end the Speak Up For Women campaign (10 January – 26 February 2019) to raise awareness of the proposed changes to the Bill, and before the Minister of Internal Affairs announced that the Bill would be deferred.

This summary report was prepared by Speak Up For Women.

Section 1: Main Survey Questions

1. Are you aware of proposed changes from the government, to the Births, Death, Marriages and Relationships Recognition Act to enable “sex self-identification” for birth certificates?

General Population

	%	n
No	65%	647
Yes	35%	355
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1002

Women

	%	n
No	66%	337
Yes	34%	174
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	511

Two thirds (65%) of respondents were not aware of the proposed changes that would include provision for sex self-identification. Two thirds (66%) of women respondents were unaware of the planned changes.

To give you some more background: Under the proposed changes to the Births, Death, Marriages and Relationships Recognition Act, a person aged 18 years or older can choose to change the nominated gender that is recorded on their birth certificate by going through an administrative process. They will no longer have to provide evidence of expert medical advice (i.e. from a qualified medical doctor) of the change as currently required.

2. Please give a rating on how you feel about this proposed change to the law, with 1 being “Strongly oppose the change” and 5 being “Strongly support the change”?

General Population

	%	n
Strongly oppose the change	22%	217
Oppose the change	19%	192
Neither oppose nor support the change	25%	253
Support the change	18%	180
Strongly support the change	12%	118
Don't know	4%	41
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1001

Women

	%	n
Strongly oppose the change	18%	90
Oppose the change	18%	90
Neither oppose nor support the change	25%	125
Support the change	21%	105
Strongly support the change	15%	75
Don't know	5%	25
Total (missing values = 1)	100%	510

Forty-one percent of all respondents were opposed (19%) or strongly opposed (22%) to the changes, and 30% supported (18%) or strongly supported (12%) the changes. A quarter of respondents neither opposed nor agreed with the proposed changes and 4% didn't have an opinion.

Among women respondents, 36% oppose (18%) or strongly oppose (18%) the changes, and 36% support (21%) or strongly support (15%) the changes. A quarter of women respondents neither oppose nor support the changes (25%) and 5% didn't have an opinion.

3. How do you feel about expert medical advice being required before someone can change their sex on a birth certificate?

(Note: Wording in the current Act sets out a requirement for expert medical *evidence*, not *advice*.)

General Population

	%	n
Yes, I think expert medical advice should be required	50%	503
No, I don't think expert medical advice should be required	23%	234
I'm not sure, don't have an opinion about this	26%	265
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1002

Women

	%	n
Yes, I think expert medical advice should be required	47%	241
No, I don't think expert medical advice should be required	25%	128
I'm not sure / don't have an opinion about this	28%	142
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	511

Half of all respondents (50%) think expert medical advice should be required before someone can change the sex marker on their birth certificate. Almost a quarter (23%) think expert medical advice should not be required and slightly more than a quarter (26%) were not sure or didn't have an opinion.

Just under half (47%) of women respondents think expert medical advice is necessary and a quarter (25%) think it should not be. Just over a quarter (28%) were unsure or had no opinion.

4. Were you aware of any public consultation on these proposed changes? By this we mean opportunities for the public to give their feedback to the government on the proposal.

General Population

	%	n
Yes, I was aware of public consultation on these proposed changes	10%	100
No, I did not know there was public consultation on these proposed changes	90%	902
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1002

Women

	%	n
Yes, I was aware of public consultation on these proposed changes	7%	35
No, I did not know there was public consultation on these proposed changes	93%	476
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	511

Overall 10% of respondents were aware that public consultation was taking place and 90% were unaware that it was. Of women respondents 7% were aware of the public consultation and 93% were not.

The 100 people who said they were aware that public consultation on the proposed changes was taking place were asked an additional question.

5. Did you participate in any public consultation on these changes?

General Population

	%	n
Yes	35%	35
No	65%	65
Total	100%	100

Women

	%	n
Yes	31%	11
No	69%	24
Total	100%	35

Thirty-five respondents who had heard about the consultation (35%, and 3% of total respondents) reported that they had participated in it. Sixty-five respondents (65% and 6% of total respondents) who had heard about the consultation did not participate.

Women

Of women respondents who had heard about the consultation, 11 (31% and 2% of all women respondents) reported that they had participated. Twenty-four (69% and 5% of all women respondents) reported that they did not participate.

6. In your opinion has the public been consulted sufficiently on these proposed changes?

General Population

	%	n
Yes	9%	91
No	49%	492
Don't know	42%	419
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1002

Women

	%	n
Yes	7%	38
No	46%	236
Don't know	46%	237
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	511

Almost half (49%) of respondents considered that the public had not been sufficiently consulted on the proposed changes. Another 42% didn't know. Only 9% of respondents considered that consultation had been sufficient.

Among women respondents, almost half (46%) thought consultation had not been sufficient, and the same proportion (46%) didn't know. Only 7% of women surveyed thought consultation was sufficient.

7. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the government should put these proposed changes on hold so that further consultation with the public can take place?

General Population

	%	n
Strongly disagree	7%	68
Disagree	9%	90
Neither disagree nor agree	24%	239
Agree	24%	236
Strongly agree	28%	276
Don't know	9%	93
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	1002

Women

	%	n
Strongly disagree	7%	37
Disagree	13%	66
Neither disagree nor agree	23%	118
Agree	23%	119
Strongly agree	23%	120
Don't know	10%	51
Total (missing values = 0)	100%	511

Over half (52%) of all respondents agree (24%) or strongly agree (28%) that the changes should be put on hold until further consultation can take place. Sixteen percent either disagreed (9%) or strongly disagreed (6%). One third (33%) either gave a neutral opinion, i.e. didn't agree or disagree (24%) or didn't know (9%).

Among women respondents, just under half (46%) agreed (23%) or strongly agreed (23%) that the changes should be put on hold until further consultation can take place. Twenty percent disagreed (13%) or strongly disagreed (7%). A third (33%) either gave a neutral opinion, i.e. didn't agree or disagree (23%) or didn't know (10%).

Respondent Demographics

D1. Which of the following age brackets do you belong to?

	%	n
18 to 24 years	8%	84
25 to 29 years	10%	98
30 to 39 years	17%	166
40 to 49 years	17%	169
50 to 59 years	18%	177
60 to 69 years	17%	169
70 years and over	14%	139
Total	100%	1002

D2. Are you:

	%	n
Male	49%	487
Female	51%	511
Gender diverse	0.3%	4
Total	100%	1002

D3. Where do you currently live?

	%	n
Northland	3%	30
Auckland	37%	372
Waikato	7%	69
Bay of Plenty	6%	64
Taranaki + Hawkes Bay + Gisborne	4%	43
Manawatu/Wanganui	5%	52
Wellington including Wairarapa	13%	126
Tasman + Nelson + Marlborough	2%	25
Canterbury	13%	131
Otago	6%	58
Southland + West Coast	3%	32
Outside of New Zealand	0%	0
Total	100%	1002

D4. And what ethnicity / cultural background do you identify with?*Please select as many as apply.*

	%	n
New Zealander NZ European	67%	670
Other European	10%	102
Maori	8%	80
Pacific Peoples	5%	51
Chinese	8%	78
Indian	5%	52
Other Asian	6%	64
Middle Eastern + Latin American	1%	12
Other please specify:	1%	13
Total	100%	1001

D5. Which of the following best describes your household situation?

	%	n
Young, single living alone	5%	53
Young couple, no kids	8%	84
Group flatting	7%	70
Household with mainly preschool aged kids	8%	79
Household with mainly school aged kids	13%	133
Household with mainly older kids	12%	121
Household with kids of mixed ages	4%	45
Older couple, no kids at home	25%	248
Older, single living alone	13%	126
Something else please tell us:	4%	43
Total	100%	1002