

EDITORIAL

This symposium is intended to mark the contribution of Auckland University law students and the Auckland University Law Review to the centenary of women's suffrage in New Zealand, and we are grateful to Dame Augusta Wallace for supporting us in this venture.

However, there are dangers in publishing "special" issues on "special" topics. One concern is that the inclusion of such subjects amounts to only a token gesture. The commitment to women's involvement in the law must not end with the conferences, symposiums and other publications that have characterised this year. After all, women's participation in the law extends far beyond the issues touched upon here. It is not possible to demarcate a group of issues as "women's issues". The subjects discussed in this symposium are of great import to society in general. For example, the implications of affirmative action affect many, if not all, groups in society, and the harm caused by pornography is in no way restricted solely to women.

With this wider understanding in mind, the publication of this symposium should not be seen as endorsing the marginalisation of women's contribution to the law. Allowing students to explore a particular theme does not amount to pigeon-holing women's issues. It is instead a way of stimulating awareness and debate.

It is therefore hoped that this is will be the first of many student symposiums, and as such, provide a further opportunity to collate, publish, and in turn stimulate more student thought and writing.

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