

**Save Women's Sport Australasia**

savewomenssports@gmail.com

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**Open Letter to Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Sport and Recreation**

[Christopher.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Christopher.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz)

**CC: Prime Minister Christopher Luxon**

[Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz)

**CC: Rt Hon Winston Peters**

[Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz)

Kia ora Minister,

***Re: Sport New Zealand Guiding Principles for the Inclusion of Transgender People in Community Sport***

We request an urgent review of the Sport New Zealand (SNZ) document referred to above.

As a group of Olympians, former athletes, doctors and sport administrators, we are concerned that these guidelines deny national sport federations the opportunity to develop inclusivity policies in line with their international federations. There is a perceived threat of funding cuts where policies do not align with SNZ.

Fairness is the cornerstone of sport at all levels, something few athletes, parents, coaches or administrators would disagree with. Where sport is characterised by collision or contact, safety deserves equal status. Male-bodied athletes, are undeniably advantaged when matched against females. Women's boxing in Paris showed that where inclusion is prioritised, fairness and safety are compromised.

While universal participation in sport carries undisputed benefits to mental and physical health, women's sport can only remain fair and safe when male advantage is excluded. Despite testosterone suppression, there is unequivocal evidence of physical advantages for trans women in sport at any level.

The SNZ guidelines ignore the rights of every female athlete, and as much as we celebrate the spirit of inclusivity espoused by the Rainbow community, fundamental tenets of fairness and safety in sport have been disrespected by the SNZ document.

In light of the success of New Zealand athletes in Paris, where our women were outstanding, it's timely for your government to provide leadership in this space.

We owe our next generation of female athletes a fair, safe future in sport whether at community or elite level. Our shared obligation is to provide objective, science-informed opinion above subjective ideology. The stakes are too high.

Please ensure the guidelines for transgender inclusion in sport prioritise fairness and safety, and accurately reflect your coalition government agreements.

Ngā mihi nui

Emeritus Professor David Gerrard CNZM OBE

*Olympian 173, Tokyo 1964, Commonwealth Games swimming Gold & Bronze Medallist, Olympic and Commonwealth Games Team Doctor and Chef de Mission, NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Lorraine Moller MBE

*Olympian 476, Four-Time Olympian and Bronze Medallist, Commonwealth Games Silver & Bronze Medallist, Winner of Boston Marathon, Osaka International Ladies Marathon (3 times), Avon Women's World Championship Marathon (3 times), NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Barbara Kendall CNZM MBE

*Olympian 631, Five-time Olympian, Gold, Silver, Bronze Medallist, 4 x Sports woman of the year, Sport NZ leadership award 2014, Vice President of International Surfing, International Olympic Committee woman in sport commission member.*

Allison Roe MBE

*Winner of Boston Marathon, New York City Marathon, Peachtree Road Race, City2Surf, Seoul Marathon & Auckland Marathon Winner, World Masters Games Mountain Biking Winner, NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Erin Baker MBE

*Two-Time Ironman World Championships Gold Medallist and Three-Time Silver Medallist, ITU World Championships Gold Medallist, ITU Duathlon World Championships Gold Medallist, Halberg NZ Sports person of the Year, NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Anna Stanley (nee Rowberry) MNZM

*Silver Fern Netballer, Gold and Silver Commonwealth Games Medallist*

Jaynie Hudgell (nee Parkhouse)

*Olympian 301, Munich 1972, swimming Gold and Bronze Medallist at Commonwealth Games, Christchurch 1974*

Rod Dixon

*Olympian 271, Four-Time Olympian, Olympic Bronze Medallist, Commonwealth Games, IAAF World Cross Country Championships Bronze Medallist, New York Marathon Winner, NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Helen Leslie (nee Norfolk)

*Olympian 819, Three-Time Olympian, Two-Time Commonwealth Games & Bronze Medallist in swimming.*

Tracey Lambrechts

*Olympian 1300, Bronze Medallist Commonwealth Games, Silver Medallist in Oceania Weightlifting Championships*

Sue Lewis (Hunter)

*Olympian 282, Double Bronze Medallist Commonwealth Games*

Dr Erin Taylor

*Olympian 1093, double Olympian in canoe/kayak (Beijing 2008, London 2012), General Medical Practitioner*

Gary Anderson MBE

*Olympian 529, Bronze Medallist and Four Time Olympian, Three Time Commonwealth Games with 8 Medals, Inducted into NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Steven Ferguson

*Olympian 790, Four-time Olympian in swimming (Sydney 2000) and canoe/kayak (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012), former America's Cup grinder.*

Dean Kent

*Olympian 806, Three-Time Olympian, Twice Commonwealth Games swimming representative and Commonwealth Silver Medallist*

Rob Hamill

*Olympian 712, Silver Medallist World Championships, Winner Inaugural Atlantic Rowing Race*

Rachel Hamill

*World Champion Age Group Triathlete & Aquathon, NZ Champion in Age Group for Aquathon, Triathlon & Duathlon*

Jamie Neilsen

*Olympian No 1186, Three Time Olympian Women Team Pursuit & Two Time Commonwealth Games Competitor. World Championship Silver Medallist. NZ National Record and multiple National Podiums, UCI Track Cycling Silver & Bronze. World Rowing Championships U23 Silver medallist*

Louise Ayling

*Olympian 1126, Rowing Representative London 2012. Silver Medallist World Rowing Championships*

Robin Reid

*Olympian 944, Olympic Games Athens 2004 & Commonwealth Games Road Cycling Representative, Melbourne 2006*

Tessa Duder CNZM OBE

*Author, British Empire and Commonwealth Games swimming medallist*

Joseph Sullivan

*Olympian 1216, Gold Medallist Olympic Games, Two Time Gold Medallist World Rowing Championships, Three Time Gold Medallist World Rowing U23 Championships. Two Time Champion America's Cup Sailing Regatta*

James Dalligner

*Olympian 1016, Beijing 2008 Rowing Representative. World Rowing Champion Gold & Bronze. Gold U23 World Rowing Champion. Gold European Surf Boat Championship*

Ben Hammond

*Olympian No 1016. Rowing representative London 2012. Silver Medallist U23 World Rowing Championships*

Mathew Trott

*Olympian 1220. Rowing representative London 2012*

Arch Jelley CNZM OBE

*Olympic Coach and Manager of NZ teams to World Championships and World Cross Country Championships, Inductee Coaches Hall of Fame, 2006, SPARC Lifetime Achievement Award, 2007*

Dr Jeremy Stanley

*All Black No 963, Consultant Orthopaedic surgeon*

Anne Cairns

*2 x Olympian, Olympic Manager (2016-2024), NZ Women's Canoe Sprint team (2007-2010). Waka Ama - Medallist World Sprint V1 and V6 (2022, 2024), Long Distance World Champion v1 Master 40 women, 5th place Open WV1 (2023). Wildwater Kayak NZ Rep (1999=2012). Board Member Oceania Canoe Assoc.*

Philippa Baker-Hogan MBE

*Olympian 593, Two-Time Olympian, Three-Time World Championships Gold Medallist, Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist, NZ Sports Hall of Fame*

Dr John Hellemans MBE

*Sports doctor and eight-times World Masters Triathlon Champion. International triathlon coach and Medical Director to Triathlon NZ and Athletics NZ. Life Member Triathlon NZ*

John Parker

*International Cricket Player, NZ Cricket Captain, Chairman CEO CommUnity*

Candice Riley

*Professional Ironman Athlete, Multiple Podiums and 14x finisher. Silver National Championships. Former NZ Rowing representative. 9 x National Rowing titles. Gold x 2 Canadian Henley Rowing Regatta*

Peter Drew

*General Manager, Basketball Otago*

Bruce Ullrich OBE

*NZ Olympic Committee member for 20 years, Chef de Mission, New Zealand Teams to Brisbane 1982, Edinburgh 1986 & Seoul Olympics 1988*

Steve Hartley

*President, Boxing NZ, Vice President Oceania Boxing Confederation, World Boxing Committee Member*

Dr Chris Milne

*Sport and Exercise Medicine Specialist, Olympic and Commonwealth Games Team Doctor*

Marnie Fornusek

*NZ Wildwater Kayak Representative, Waibop Football, Women's Bay 1 League 2024 player*

Mike Walker

*Olympian No 1100. 5th place K2 1000m 2008 Olympic Games.*

Elliot Riley

*New Zealand U23 Rowing Representative*

Keri Houston

*Five Times Age Group NZ Ironman Champion, Three Time Age Group Asia Pacific Ironman Championships, Three Times World Championships*

Axel Dickson

*U23 World Rowing Championships Bronze*

Simon Watson

*World Rowing Championships, Bronze medallist*

Matt Archibald

*Commonwealth Games Gold and Bronze medallist Track Cycling. Gold Oceania Championships*

Dane Boswell

*World Rowing Championships Bronze Medallist. Gold Under 23 World Rowing Champion*

Scott Molina

*1988 Hawaii Ironman Champion, USA and Ironman Hall of Fame Member, (New Zealand Citizen!)*

Dr Xaviour Walker

*Consultant in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Physician. Completed 14 World Marathon Majors*

Dr Stewart Walsh

*Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and New Zealand Olympic Team Doctor*

Paula Twining

*NZ Rowing Representative, Silver World Rowing Championships*

Keegan Williams

*Former Professional Ironman Athlete, Triathlete & Run Coach*

Britta Martin

*Professional Long Distance Triathlete, Multiple Ironman Champion, Coach, Master Degree in Sport Science*

Nathan Peterson

*4x Top10 Coast to Coast Placings, 2x Adventure Racing World Championships, 1x World Ironman Championships Age Group*

Denise Marton

*Manager / Competitor for the NZ women whitewater rafting team. 8 x World championship titles.*

Bernd Sommer

*Multiple times New Zealand National Waka Ama outrigger canoe Champion in Sprint and Long distance racing in individual and team. 2x 3rd placing in the World Rafting Championships.*

Isobel Eliadis-Watson

*Gold Medallist Under 23 World Rowing Championship*

Finn Hamill

*Gold medallist World Rowing Coastal Championship, Silver Medallist World Rowing Under 23 Championship*

Melanie Burke

*NZ Marathon Champion, NZ Club Cycling Champion, World Long Distance Duathlon Champion, World Championships Rowing. 23rd Professional Ironman World Champs*

Aaron Cox

*Wild water kayaking Representative; Senior World Teams Champion 1995 gold, Surf Life Saving New Zealand Canoe National Champion multiple times, New Zealand title holder for Wild water racing multiple years, President of Wild water Canoe Racing New Zealand.*

Cody Johnson

*New Zealand Junior Rowing Representative*

Josh Payne

*New Zealand Rowing Representative*