

Save Women's Sport Australasia
savewomenssports@gmail.com

23 June 2021

Open Letter to Hon Grant Robertson, Minister for Sport and Recreation [Updated]

grant.robertson@parliament.govt.nz

CC: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister,

Re: Draft Guiding Principles for the Participation of Transgender Players in Sport

We ask that you urgently extend consultation on the above Sport New Zealand draft document to enable full consideration by relevant stakeholders representing the Aotearoa New Zealand sporting community.

As Olympians and former athletes, coaches and managers, we believe that Guiding Principles for such an important document deserve wider distribution and consultation. The existing process has not engaged meaningfully with key sporting organisations, clubs, and their stakeholders.

We share unequivocal support for universal participation in sport for well-established benefits to mental and physical health, as much as we celebrate the spirit of inclusivity espoused by the collective of the Rainbow Community.

However, the inclusion of trans women athletes, specifically those who have transitioned after puberty, raises issues of fairness and safety in all sport. And in this context, we believe an important principle of women's rights has been disregarded in the draft principles.

This argument, supported by an increasing body of peer-reviewed research highlights the performance advantage trans women have over female competitors, even after testosterone suppression. Despite this unequivocal evidence, the rights of the female athlete have been ignored in the draft Sport New Zealand document.

We respectfully seek your support to extend the period of consultation while widening its scope.

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.

Sir John Kirwan KNZM MBE

All Black No 854, Former Auckland Blues Player, Former Coach of Auckland Blues, Italy, Japan, Barbarians and NEC, NZ Sports Hall of Fame

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

Rod Dixon

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

Dean Kent

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

Gary Anderson MBE

Olympian No: 529, Bronze Medallist and Four Time Olympian, Four Time Commonwealth Games, Inducted into NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Jeff Wilson MNZM

All Black No. 935 and New Zealand international cricketer (1993-2005).

Barry Magee MNZM

Olympian 136, Two Time Olympian, Olympic Bronze Medallist and Two Time Commonwealth Games, Fukuoka Marathon winner, World Games Gold Medallist, NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Anne Audain MBE

Olympian 347, Four-Time Olympian, Four-Time Commonwealth Games representative, Commonwealth Games Gold & Silver Medallist, NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Marina Erakovic

Olympian 1026, Two-time tennis Olympian, Beijing 2008 and London 2012. Also Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010 finishing in the top 5.

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 Sportsperson of the Year, NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Philippa Baker-Hogan MBE

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

Danyon Loader ONZM

Olympian 640 Two Time Olympian, Double Olympic Gold Medallist and Silver Medallist, World Champion Silver and Bronze Medallist, NZ Sports Hall of Fame.

Heather Matthews MBE

Silver Medallist Commonwealth Games 1978

Bruce Ullrich MNZM

Chef de Mission NZ Olympic Team Seoul 1988, General Manager New Zealand Commonwealth Games, Brisbane 1982 and Edinburgh 1986.

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

Monique Williams (nee Rodahl)

Olympian 371, Montreal 1976, Commonwealth Games finalist. Three-time Gold and one time bronze Medallist at Oceania Swimming Championships.

Dr Erin Taylor

Olympian 1093. First female NZ Olympic representative in kayak. Two-Time Olympian. Gold medallist Oceania Championships.

Tracey Lambrechts

Olympian 1300, Two-Time Commonwealth Games winning weightlifting bronze medal, Silver Medallist Pacific Games

Anne Hare

Olympian 715, Olympic Finalist Inaugural Women's 5,000m 1996, Three-times Commonwealth Games, NZ Record Holder Women's 2,000m, Level 2 Athletics NZ Coach, Served on the Athletics NZ and NZ Olympic Committee

Helen Leslie (nee Norfolk)

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

Jaynie Hudgell (nee Parkhouse)

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

Dylan Dunlop Barrett

Olympian 1138, London 2012, Commonwealth Games 2014, Oceania Championship swimming Gold & Bronze medallist.

Andrew McMillian

Olympian 1179, London 2012, Commonwealth Games Melbourne 2006, four-times World swimming championships. Member, World Champion NZ Surf Life-Saving Team.

Steve Kent

Olympian 1169, London 2012, Commonwealth Games 2014, Bronze Medallist at World Games. Member, World Champion NZ Surf Life-Saving Team.

Brenda Lawson

Olympian 636, Two-Time Olympian, Double Sculls Gold & Single Sculls Bronze Medallist World Rowing Championships

Diane Rodger

Olympian 385, Two-Time Olympian, Commonwealth Games representative, Former President Athletics NZ, Athletics NZ Board Appointments Panel

David Rodger

Olympian 372, Three-Time Olympian, & Bronze Medallist, Six World Championships- two Gold, one Silver and three Bronze, Member of Rowing Eight named Sportsman of the year 1982, New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame

Troy Garton

Boxing Bronze Medallist Commonwealth Games, 2018, Reigning Undefeated NZ Champion in 60kg Female Boxing Class.

Liz van Welie

Olympian 856, Silver Medallist Commonwealth Games

Juliette Drysdale

Olympian 907, Three Time Olympian and Bronze Medallist, Three World Rowing Championships - Three Gold Medals, Six World Rowing Cups - Five Gold Medals and One Silver Medal.

Candice Riley

Professional Ironman Athlete and NZ Rowing Representative

Britta Reid

Professional Long Distance Triathlete, Coach, Master Degree in Sport Science

Louise Ayling

Olympic Rower and Silver Medallist World Championship

Keegan Williams

Former Professional Ironman Athlete, Triathlete & Run Coach

Onny Parun

World Top 20 Tennis Player for Five years, Grand Slam Doubles Winner & Singles Finalist, Wimbledon Finalist, Three Time Winner Benson and Hedges Open, Inductee NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Tessa Duder (nee Staveley), CMNZ, OBE

Silver Medallist, 1958 British Commonwealth and Empire Games, Cardiff, 1958, New Zealand Swimmer of the Year 1959

Wybo Veldman

Olympian No 254, Two Time Olympian, Olympic Gold Medallist, Bronze Medallist World Rowing Championships, Gold & Silver Medallist European Rowing Championships, NZ Sports Hall of Fame

Glenda Rodger

New Zealand Rowing Representative World Championships

Patrick Peoples

Olympian 658, Olympic Rower

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 Hunter

Olympian 228. Olympic Gold Medallist, Gold Medal World Championships, Olympic Team Manager NZ Rowing

Bernadine Murch

Five Time Waka Ama New Zealand Open Women's Gold Medallist, I.V.F Va'a World Sprint Championships 2006 Open Women Bronze Medallist, .V.F Va'a World Sprint Championships 2004 Open Women Bronze Medallist

Pogo Paterson Mcauley

Former International Rugby Player, Bronze Medallist Sprint Triathlon World Championship, Silver Medallist Triathlon World Championships, Sport & Recreation Lecturer

Mary O'Connor

Olympian 484. Two Times Olympic Games, Gold Medallist Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, 13 x World Cross Country Champs, Twice 2nd Women London Marathon, Member Winning World Ekiden Champs Road Relay Team

Dick Taylor MNZM

Olympian 317, Olympic Games, Gold Medallist & Two Time Commonwealth Games Competitor

Elliot Riley

New Zealand U23 Rowing Representative

Anna Nielsen (née. Reymer)

Olympian 1200, Olympic Games, Bronze Medallist Rowing World Champs

Lesley Rumball (née. Nicol)

Time Times Silver Medallist Commonwealth Games, Gold, Silver & Bronze Medallist Netball World Championships, 109 Caps Silver Ferns

Joseph Sullivan

Olympian 1216, Gold Medallist Olympic Games, Two Time Gold Medallist World Rowing Championships, Three Time Gold Medallist World Rowing U23 Championships

Gina Crawford

Former Professional Triathlete, Current Triathlon & Swim Coach

Nathan Cohen

Olympian 1013. Two Times Olympic Games & Gold Medallist, Two Times World Rowing Championships & Double Gold Medallist, Gold Medallist World University Games.

Lucy Strack

New Zealand Rowing Representative - Four Times International Tours, New Zealand ITU Triathlon Representative, Age Group Ironman Athlete at Kona World Champs

Ben Hammond

London Olympic Team. World Rowing Championships

Keri Houston

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

Tyson Williams

Olympian 1230. Under 23 World Champion. Junior World Champion

Rob Hamill

Olympian No 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

Nicki Turner MNZM

White Fern 1981-1991, MNZM Services to Cricket and The Community, First Female TV Commentator of Men's Cricket in NZ, First Professional Female Cricket Coach in NZ

Rebecca Caroe

Multiple World Rowing Masters, British Masters, NZ Masters, Australia Masters Medallist, English Rower, Host of the RowingChat Podcast, Rowperfect Rowing Blog & Masters Rowing International Facebook Group

Robin Reid

Olympian 944, Olympic & Commonwealth Games Road Cycling Representative

Ash Rawson

BMX Racing, Multiple World Podiums & National Titles, Cycling NZ BMX Development Coach. Father of High Performance Athletes Shania Rawson (2nd MTB Downhill Junior World Championships & multiple National Titles)

Kurt Pickard

Olympian 1194, BMX Olympic Athlete & Olympic Coach

Melanie Burke

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

Paula Twining

New Zealand Rowing Representative

Regan Olsen (nee Barkla)

NZ Junior Rowing Team. Youth Olympic Team and U23 Representative Team

Sophie MacKenzie

Olympian 1304. Two Time Gold Medallist World Rowing Championships. One Time Gold Medallist and Two Times Silver Medallist Under23 World Championships.

Keith Walker

Five-Time Olympic Boxing Official, Four-Time Commonwealth Games Official, Honorary Vice President of AIBA, Life Member and Chairman of Boxing NZ

Bruce Ullrich OBE

Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Xth Commonwealth Games, Chef de Mission Olympic & Commonwealth Games, Former Vice President, New Zealand Olympic Committee

Dr Deborah Robinson

Sports Physician. Former All Blacks Doctor, Olympic and Commonwealth Games Team Doctor, World Rugby Council Member

Dr Chris Milne, QSM

Sport and Exercise Physician, Olympic & Commonwealth Games Team Doctor, Chair, Medical Commission Oceanic National Olympic Committees.

Dr Peter Burt

Sports Doctor, Olympic Team Physician, Medical Commission Member, International Basketball Federation (FIBA)

Ruth Tuiraviravi

America's Cup Event Team, Volvo Ocean Race Program Director, Volvo Ocean Race Volunteer Program Manager, President Athletics Club, NZ Canoe Slalom Team Manager

David Bowden

Elite Triathlon Coach and Sports Performance Analyst

Paul Taitoko

Physiotherapist for International Athletes From Athletics, Rugby, Ironman, Rowing, Cycling, Boxing, Kickboxing, Bowls & Shooting. Consultant on both Culture & Diversity at a Nationwide Level