



GWN FAQs

What is Government Women's Network?

Te Aka Wāhine o Aotearoa – Government Women's Network is a national network aiming to inspire and empower public sector women to achieve their potential. GWN operates across all public sector agencies in New Zealand, supported by regional networks: [Te Aka Wāhine o Tāmaki Auckland GWN](#) and [Te Aka Wāhine o Te Waipounamu Southern GWN](#).

You can find out more about GWN on the [website](#). The site also has information about [events](#) and useful [resources](#), including guides and tools to start your own network. You can also [download a DL flyer](#) to share with your agency and managers.

What does GWN offer?

GWN provides its members with news, professional development resources, networking opportunities, speaker events and seminars.

Why focus on women?

The gender pay gap across the public service sits at 12.2%, but non-European women and older women tend to have even more significant pay gaps. The government has committed to eliminating the gender pay gap within the public service.

Women make up 60.9% of the public service workforce but only 48.8% of the the top three tiers of senior management. Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnicities – and women of these ethnicities – are still underrepresented in public service leadership. Achieving gender equity in leadership and closing the gender pay gap requires deliberate action – including investment in women's development.

How will attending a GWN event help my team member?

GWN events provide access to women leaders and role models and offer learning opportunities. Bringing women together from across the public sector, their agencies and their regions enables our wāhine to build valuable professional networks.

How much does it cost?

GWN events are usually free. The Women in Public Sector Summit is run annually in Auckland and Wellington and is deliberately priced to be affordable for public sector employees, compared to similar events put on by commercial providers.

How can I support a staff member who wants to be involved with GWN?

You can support your staff by releasing them from duties for just a few hours a week to let them contribute to GWN and attend network events. Participation in GWN provides excellent leadership development opportunities and the chance to practice skills in a safe environment. Your support could make a real difference – not just for them, but for other women in the public sector.



Can I come to a GWN event?

Of course. People of any gender who work in the public sector – including central government, local government and Crown entities – are welcome to join GWN, Auckland GWN and SGWN and attend events.

How do I join?

On the GWN website you can [join the mailing list](#) to receive information about events and news from GWN, Auckland GWN and SGWN.