

2 Fitzpatrick Place
Chatswood
North Shore City 0626

Editor, North Shore Times
1 Byron Ave
Takapuna
North Shore City

22 April 2010

Dear Sir,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing in response to Barbara Faithfull's letter regarding the North Shore Women's Centre (*'Deeper agendas'*, North Shore Times, 20 April 2010). The North Shore Women's Centre provides a valuable service to the women of the North Shore.

According to the New Zealand Human Rights Commission's *'Human Rights and Women'* draft status report: "Poverty for women, violence against women and female representation in public life are three immediate challenges for New Zealand" and goes onto say: "Many more women than men live in poverty and at the other end of the socio-economic spectrum few women occupy positions of governance and leadership in the business sector".

Violence, poverty and glass ceilings affect women everywhere, including on the North Shore. The North Shore Women's Centre helps to tackle these issues by providing vital services such as counselling, parenting support, health information, employment information and courses, support groups and legal information for women. This support is provided to all women, regardless of their background, culture or religious belief.

As for the courses that target young women, I think that it is fabulous that the Women's Centre is tackling issues such as body image when so many of our young women suffer from low self-esteem and depression.

So I would like to thank the North Shore Women's Centre for the wonderful work that they undertake every day to help correct the imbalances within our society. Keep it up!

Yours sincerely,

Paula Gillon
Member, Birkenhead Northcote Community Board