



SOPHIE RAPSON

Women's Vice President New Zealand Council



Kia Ora. I seek your support for the position of Women's Vice President because I want to help make the Labour Party a stronger and more effective voice for all New Zealand women.

Building a fairer and more equal New Zealand starts with a fairer and more equal Labour Party. As Women's VP I would lead the fight for better women's representation at all levels of the party, from branch meetings to the caucus room.

If elected I will work to

- enhance communication amongst women in the party
- listen to the concerns and ideas of Labour women, communicate and provide regular feedback to the Women's Sector Council and NZ Council
- include the women's liaison officers elected to every branch in the work of the Party
- strengthen the relationship between the sector and branches
- ensure women's issues become everyone's issues

I believe that I will bring a fresh and energetic voice to NZ Council. I am passionate about improving women's participation in the party at all levels, and believe my well-developed networks and relationships in the party will enable me to effect real and meaningful change.

I see the Labour party as the social democratic party of the future where all voices count, where debate thrives, and party members are listened to. This would underpin my decision making on NZ Council if elected.

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Born in Christchurch and raised in Tauranga, I grew up in a conservative National / NZ First electorate; I grew up knowing I was different.

From an early age it was not difficult for me to see that people, not profit, are the overriding consideration when it comes to policy making and leading a country through the good times and the bad. It was that understanding that drove me to the Labour party and its core values.

While at university (LLB/BA) my passion for politics and social justice thrived. I became an activist who has worked at many levels of the party. I've seen first hand how we operate as an organisation, where we can organise better, and where change needs to be made. I helped to restart the Wellington Central Women's Branch, of which I am now Chair. This experience showed me how we can create an inclusive, active space where women can fight for the issues that are important to them, and win. I've also worked on many campaigns, helped fundraise, and have helped govern my region as a member of the Wellington Labour Regional Council, as well as delegate on the LEC.

I led the Wellington Central Women's Branch organisation review submission. It was a positive process that voiced the frustrations, concerns, and ideas of Wellington Central women, highlighting the importance of democracy within an organisation, something which I value greatly.

Professionally, I work in a political environment and see governance in action on a daily basis in my job at Wellington City Council. I have developed and strengthened my relationship building skills across the organisation and with elected members. I believe I have the skill set to manage the complexities and the decision making that NZ Council offers.

If you have any questions or would like a chat please don't hesitate to contact me at sophie.rapson@gmail.com and I will give you a call or come visit your branch.