

MEDIA RELEASE

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A third of women say equal rights not achieved

Although it has been more than 110 years since New Zealand women have had the right to vote, one in three women still believe they don't have equal rights, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

The poll found 34 percent of women believed they didn't share equal rights with men, this contrasted with only 16 percent of males who believed that women didn't have equal rights.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said the poll found that, overall, 72 percent of New Zealanders believed that men and women shared equal rights.

What the poll did highlight was that there was a significant difference in perception between men and women on this issue, Mr Kalafatelis said.

"Equal rights between the sexes in this day and age is often something that's largely taken for granted, so it's interesting that when asked, many women feel that there is still work to be done towards reaching equality."

Mr Kalafatelis said that there was a significant difference between the age groups polled.

Young people (under 30 years of age) are significantly more likely to agree that New Zealand women have equal rights with men, compared to other groups. The poll found that 87 percent of those aged 15-29 years agreed that women had equal rights, compared to 69 percent of those aged 30-39 years for example.

The Electoral Act granting women the right to vote was signed into law 115 years ago on 19 September 1893.

The Research New Zealand poll of 529 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 2 and 11 September. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.



Respondents were asked: *Women's Suffrage Day is on 19 September. Do you believe women and men in New Zealand have equal rights?*

Table 1: Opinion about equal rights between women and men - by gender

Women's Suffrage Day is on 19 September. Do you believe women and men in New Zealand have equal rights?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	529	234	295
	%	%	%
Yes	72	81	65
No	25	16	34
Don't know	2	3	2

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Opinion about equal rights between women and men - by age group

Women's Suffrage Day is on 19 September. Do you believe women and men in New Zealand have equal rights?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	529	70	99	96	101	163
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	72	87	69	71	62	73
No	25	10	28	26	37	25
Don't know	2	3	3	3	1	2

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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