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*It is 100 years since women  
gained the vote.*

It is 60 years since the first woman was  
elected to Parliament

We have only 15 women MPs,  
and 82 men MPs.

Women are still on the fringe of government.

Women make up over 50% of the  
population. In a democracy, all the people  
should be fairly represented.

**Make Your Vote Count: Vote MMP**

*This leaflet has been produced jointly by:*

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Donations welcome



*"The crudity and unfairness of the  
present method of election ... and our  
clumsy system of voting still goes on  
sending men to Parliament for whom  
only a minority of their constituents  
have voted, leaving the majority quite  
unrepresented. As a representative  
system it is a sham, a delusion, and a  
snare to the unthinking"*

**- Kate Sheppard,**

Address to the National Council of Women, 1902

**Proportional representation was  
proposed by the suffragists in 1893.  
In 1993 we can now vote for MMP.**

*Referendum '93*

# Women and MMP

**MMP**

**Make Your Vote Count**

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY  
ELECTORAL REFORM COALITION

# MMP

Mixed Member Proportional:

## A Better Deal for Women

### *MMP should mean more women in Parliament*

In many countries with *proportional* voting systems, like MMP, women have gained more seats in Parliament than any country with **First-Past-the-Post**.

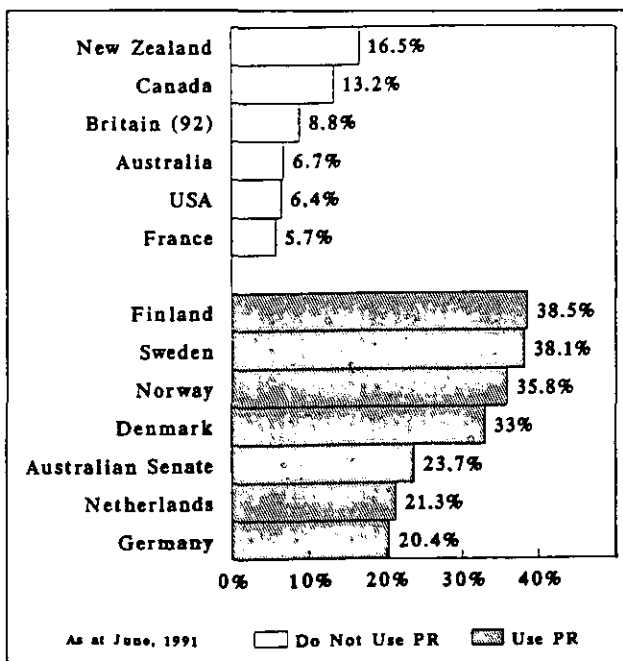
This happens because of party lists.

In Germany - with MMP - 20% of the MPs are women. Two thirds of them are elected on the party lists. In countries that use only party lists the number is often higher. In Sweden, 38% of MPs are women. In New Zealand, with First-Past-the-Post, only 15 of our 97 MPs are women.

### *A Choice of MPs*

Over 80% of New Zealand women have a male MP. Many of them are not sympathetic to concerns raised by women.

With MMP, there will still be local MPs, *and* list MPs who are elected by the votes of all New Zealanders. That means that there will be a range of MPs in each area you can go and see. You will have a choice.



### *Why do party lists help women?*

At present, well-qualified women candidates often fail to gain selection. When a party chooses a candidate for a local seat such as *Auckland Central* or *Invercargill*, it must choose *either* a man or a

woman. With **party lists** the party can select both men *and* women - and parties will be judged accordingly. This makes it easier for women to gain selection.

### *Make Your Vote Count With MMP*

On election day you will cast two votes: one for your local MP and one for the party of your choice. Parliament will be a mixture of local MPs and party list members.

The number of seats a party gains will be set by the proportion of votes the party wins across the country. If a party wins 10% of the party votes it will get 10% of the seats in Parliament.

MMP is a *fair* voting system. Your vote will count wherever you live.

### *Will MMP change the style of government?*

It won't happen overnight. But MMP will change the way governments work.

First-Past-the-Post is an adversarial system. There are only two sides and each tries to win by destroying the credibility of the other.

In New Zealand today, we need more consultation and co-operation. With MMP, parties will have to work together instead of always opposing one another.

**Make Your Vote Count: Vote MMP**