

Part 1: The Issue and the System

The Issue:

Endometriosis in New Zealand suffers from a lack of funding, acknowledgement and research and our group wanted to see what we could do to change that. Endometriosis is a disease that occurs in the uterine lining and affects 1/10 New Zealand women, and a diagnosis can take up to ten years. It can cause extreme pain, period cramps and cause infertility. Many women are forced to turn to privately funding their own treatment as the New Zealand healthcare system has huge delays due to lack of funding and women are frequently denied appointments. Many people think it is getting less funding because it is a condition that mainly affects females.

The System:

Our goal is to make a difference for women and those assigned female at birth who live with endometriosis. Endometriosis New Zealand state that they “Represent the tens of thousands of girls, women, and those assigned female at birth, who live with endometriosis in New Zealand, and we work with those who treat the condition and researchers to find solutions. We provide unique and professional services and programs to reach individuals, communities, workplaces, and all stakeholders involved in improving health outcomes for those with endometriosis and persistent pelvic pain”. Endometriosis New Zealand does not receive any government funding. Therefore, by supporting them we are supporting the wider charitable system in New Zealand. By helping to raise funds for Endometriosis New Zealand we are allowing them to continue to do their work to support sufferers from the disease, and without them there would be no help.”

Additionally, we also wanted to challenge the New Zealand Health Care system. This is overseen by Ministry of Health, the lead advisor on health priorities and policy. The Ministry of Health regulates and monitors the health system to deliver better health outcomes for all New Zealanders and they make the decisions about how government money is spent and what to fund.

Our Action and Impact on the System.

This is first action we took for support of Endometriosis was to create an Instagram Account. *[Here the student inserted screenshots from the Instagram page and annotated it with details about how it was used].*

We selected this action because to have an impact we needed to raise money. To do this, we needed people to be aware of the upcoming bake sale/sausage sizzle. And they also needed to care about the cause so they will be willing to donate. So included information about how it affected women. We also turned these into posters that we put around the school, which also included the username for the Instagram account.

The next step we took was to write an email to Endometriosis New Zealand and provide them with a bit of information about what it is that we are doing. We told them that we were going to be raising money for them, and we asked for any ideas we could use to help them out in a more useful way. They responded with thanks and gave us more ways to provide people with information on endometriosis. They offered to give us some links for people to use as an awareness website. *[Here, the student inserted photographic evidence of the email thread]*

The sale went well as we ended up raising around \$175. This was good considering our sausage sizzles and cupcakes were priced at only \$2. The bake sale went well except we were rushing a little bit trying to get everyone's orders up and we ran out of sausages which is something we could have prevented but it was a lot of money to buy them which is what we didn't have at the time. *[Here, the student inserted a photograph of them participating in the sausage sizzle]*

Another action we took was to email the Ministry of Health to see what could be done about endometriosis. We took this action to see why the Ministry of Health does not fund endometriosis properly or barely talks about endometriosis when it affects 120,000 women in New Zealand, and they are the ones who have the power to change it. Their reply was a bit blaze. They stated that they were aware of this situation, and they say "it can be very difficult" to manage and live with (Here, the student inserted a screenshot of the email thread). By raising their awareness to the issue, we are hopefully making sure they consider the issue more carefully in future when they decide how to spend their budget. *[Here, the student inserted the email thread]*

Overall, I think we supported the system by raising money. However, we probably only had a small impact as we couldn't raise as much money as we hoped for because our prices were so low and we had low product to sell on the day, which is because the prices of the foods were quite expensive, and we were using our own money to buy it. If we had a longer and more thought-out plan, I think we would have been able to reach our goal of at least \$400 to give to endometriosis but since we were too focused on getting the posters and everything else sorted it was a bit rushed.

Suitability:

The suitability could've been better, because there was more, we could have done. Our social action contributed a little bit to a social issue because we've raised a small amount of money to donate to the organization and we spread enough awareness out to grab people's attention throughout school.