

Women and the Vote

✓ 1893 Petition

- * The main **suffrage petition** was submitted to **Parliament** on 28 July 1893.
- * It contains the names and addresses of about 24,000 women aged 21 years or older.
- * The original petition comprised more than 500 individual sheets, which were signed in various parts of the country.
- * These were glued together to form a single roll that stretched more than **270m**



✓ Lets do the math

The population of New Zealand in 1893 was 714,300 people.

1. What percentage of people signed the petition?

Formula = $24,000 / 714,300 \times 100 / 1$ = %

2. The petition was 270m long made from 500 sheets of paper.

How long was each sheet ? m or cm

3. Estimate the average number of signatures on each page?

4. The final length of the petition was closest in length to

a) a rugby field, b) a quarter of a kilometre, or c) the width of a road?



Within 10 weeks the law was changed and women could legally vote .

A staggering 109,461 women exercised their hard won right in the 1893 elections.

An amazing achievement for New Zealand and an international first for *universal suffrage*.