

Flexi-wage Employment Assistance Amendment 2023

This instrument is made under section 101(1) of the Social Security Act 2018 by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

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Instrument

Title

This instrument is the Flexi-wage Employment Assistance Amendment 2023.

Commencement

This instrument comes into force on 5 February 2024.

Programme amended

This instrument amends the Flexi-wage Employment Assistance Programme established and approved on 9 February 2021 (the Principal Programme).

Clause 6 amended (Eligibility for assistance)

In clause 6(2), after subclause (a) insert:

(ab) does not meet the entry-level criteria, set by the employer, for the role that the assistance is being granted for under this programme; and

Clause 9 amended (Payment of assistance)

- (1) In clause 9(2), insert “,to an employer for each individual employee,” before “for all types of assistance under this programme”
- (2) In clause 9(2) delete “in respect of a person,”
- (3) In clause 9, after subclause (4) insert:

- (5) In exercising its discretion under clause 9(1)(c) and (d) MSD may pay assistance in variable, periodical amounts but the total paid must not exceed;
- (a) the relevant maximum in the Schedule; and
 - (b) the minimum adult rate of wages prescribed in the Minimum Wage Act 1983, for employment of 30 hours per week, where the payment is equivalent to a weekly amount or multiple weekly amounts, (regardless of whether the payment is paid weekly).

Schedule amended (Types and amount of assistance)

- (1) Clause 1 of the Schedule is amended by replacing the text appearing in the “Band one” “Amount available” column with:

A maximum of \$5,638.68 over 24 consecutive weeks

- (2) Clause 1 of the Schedule is amended by replacing the text appearing in the “Band two” “Amount available” column with:

A maximum of \$11,277.36 over 36 consecutive weeks

- (3) Clause 1 of the Schedule is amended by replacing the text appearing in the “Band three” “Amount available” column with:

Not exceeding a total amount of \$22,000

- (4) In clause 2 ‘2. Employment-related training assistance’ under (a), replace “\$1,000” with “\$2,000”.

At Wellington this 30th day of August 2023



Minister for Social Development and Employment

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the instrument, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This instrument, which comes into force on 5 February 2024, makes various changes to the principal programme. The programme has been amended to:

- only allow applicants, who do not meet the entry-level criteria for the relevant role, to be eligible for assistance;
- clarify that the limitation in clause 9(2) only applies to employers in respect of an individual, rather than the individual themselves;
- adjust the subsidy amounts for Bands one and two;
- allow wage subsidies to be paid in variable amounts, equalling the total subsidy amount over the specified period for the relevant band, but not exceeding the minimum wage for 30 hours work for any given week; and
- increase the maximum amount of assistance available through Flexi-wage for participants to undertake short-term training from \$1,000 to \$2,000.