



Coversheet

Expansion of the Flexi-Wage Scheme

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

These documents have been proactively released.

30 November 2020, Cabinet paper - Expansion of Flexi-Wage to support 40,000 New Zealanders into work or to start their own business.

30 November 2020, Cabinet Minute CAB-20-MIN-0493, Cabinet Office.

This information sets out the proposed changes for expanding Flexi-Wage to support up to an additional 40,000 New Zealanders into work or to start their own business. Cabinet agreed to:

- introducing the ability to target key cohorts (for example, people disadvantaged in the labour market, sectors most affected by COVID-19; and people who are under-utilised in certain circumstances)
- making it easier for employers to navigate and understand Flexi Wage by increasing certainty and consistency in how much they will receive through streamlining the Flexi-Wage, introducing set rates, while also maintaining flexibility through a discretionary band
- undertaking a multi-pronged, multi-year media campaign to promote the support available and utilise what we know about good employers and sustainable employment.

These changes are set to be completed in a phased approach that enables MSD to support more people into work while also building capacity to meet forecasted increases in unemployment. The paper also sets out the ring-fenced \$30 million to expand Flexi-Wage Self-Employment.

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it. This is the key to the redaction code used for this release.

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) - the confidentiality of advice under active consideration.

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