



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Dear [REDACTED]

On 2 April 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information about the Ministry's partnership with The Warehouse under the Accelerator programme:

- 1. Are there rostered days or hours when the programme takes place? If so, what are these?*
- 2. Please specify the providers/employers that are participating in the Accelerator programme.*
- 3. What are the specified targets for participants to be placed in employment after completing the programme?*
- 4. Is the available employment solely with the providers available in the programme?*
- 5. Is there a proposed number of participants that The Warehouse has committed to complete the programme? If so, what is the agreed intake and time period for programme completion?*
- 6. I understand that 'Red Shirts in the Community' is being launched as the first module. Are there additional modules under development and what is the time frame for their implementation?*

The Ministry, The Warehouse and YouthHub have partnered together to create a platform called 'Accelerator'; a 24/7 digital learning space, where young people have self-directed access to a suite of workplace training modules and programmes around New Zealand.

The Ministry and The Warehouse partnered in February 2016 to give young people ages 16-24 the opportunity to take part in 'Red Shirts in the Community' (RSIC), a work-readiness programme. The purpose of the RSIC programme is to provide young people who have indicated that they want to work in customer service roles, an opportunity to get valuable on-the-job training with The Warehouse and earn NCEA credits. The Warehouse does not gain financially from running the programme, nor does it impact on their current employees.

For the sake of clarity, I will address each of your questions in turn.

- 1. Are there rostered days or hours when the programme takes place? If so, what are these?*

There are no rostered days or hours for Accelerator as this is a digital learning platform. However, there are rostered days for the RSIC programme. RSIC runs for three consecutive weeks in-store, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5:00pm. In one instance, in agreement with the students, the hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 8:30am-5:30pm due to the availability of The Warehouse's coordinators.

- 2. Please specify the providers/employers that are participating in the Accelerator programme.*

At this early stage, The Warehouse is the only provider participating in Accelerator. However, once the Ministry have successfully delivered the digital version of The Warehouse's RSIC programme, other employers who offer on-the-job training opportunities for young people will be invited to be part of Accelerator.

- 3. What are the specified targets for participants to be placed in employment after completing the programme?*

The Accelerator Platform is an online training environment, and thus there are no targets for employment.

The RSIC programme is a work-readiness programme, and there are no specific employment targets once a young person has completed the programme. However, as part of the programme, young people are supported into employment or other opportunities after the three weeks of experiencing work and 91 days after completing the programme.

- 4. Is the available employment solely with the providers available in the programme?*

The aim of the RSIC programme is to prepare participants for work. Participants will be assisted to find employment with any employer.

- 5. Is there a proposed number of participants that The Warehouse has committed to complete the programme? If so, what is the agreed intake and time period for programme completion?*

As previously mentioned, Accelerator is a 24/7 digital learning space and online training environment, and thus there are no completion targets for young people who use this platform.

However, there is an agreement to run at least three RSIC programmes this calendar year.

6. *I understand that 'Red Shirts in the Community' is being launched as the first module. Are there additional modules under development and what is the time frame for their implementation?*

No further modules are under development at this time.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a vertical stroke that loops back to the horizontal one, ending in a small flourish.

Amanda Nicolle
Director, Industry Partnerships