

Recovery from COVID-19 – Getting People into Work

As part of Budget 2020 we are committed to helping people whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19.

COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

Government is backing multiple approaches to getting and keeping people in employment, including retraining New Zealanders who can be redeployed to other industries.

With this funding the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) will scale up its broad range of employment programmes to support more people who need employment assistance.

- Evidence suggests that the longer people remain on benefit, the more difficult it becomes for them to re-enter the labour market.
- Increases in employment and financial services and MSD’s employment offering is critical to supporting people quickly into employment opportunities to reduce reliance on Government financial support.
- These employment services support economic development and social development.
- Descriptions of some key MSD programmes follow:
 - **Flexi-wage** is an existing subsidy paid to employers to hire disadvantaged job seekers and is usually paid for up to one year.
 - **Employment Placement Services** is an existing programme where MSD regional centres choose appropriate local providers to offer employment placement and support services, targeting medium to high-risk clients, allowing MSD regional offices to choose services.
 - **Mana in Mahi** is an existing programme that provides support to both employers and employees to enter and remain in apprenticeships and training pathways.
 - **Transition to Work Grant** is existing flexible, financial assistance designed to help meet the additional costs of getting into employment. This grant can also be used to help with a range of job interviews and related pre-employment costs, e.g. clothing and transport for a job interview, interpreter fees, tools for work, relocating for work, childcare during a job interview, or when first starting work.

Costs (operating) \$m		
2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
100.0	50.0	150.0