

## Tēnā koutou and welcome to the Summer Edition of HIYU

**Thank you for your work this year**

**We wish you a Very Merry Xmas & A Happy New Year**

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### Welcome to our Ministers

#### Hon Carmel Sepuloni

- Minister for Social Development and Employment
- Minister for ACC
- Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage
- Minister for Disability Issues

#### Hon Dr Ayesha Verral

- Minister for Food Safety
- Minister for Seniors
- Associate Minister for Health
- Associate Minister for Research, Science and Innovation

#### Hon Priyanca Radhakrisnan (Outside Cabinet)

- Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment
- Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector
- Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities
- Minister for Youth

### Increase to fees for BRC Community Representatives

The next round of fee increases will be effective from 1 January 2021, at \$11.67 (5%) of the daily rate for more than three hours work from \$245.02 to \$256.69. There will be a final increase from 1 January 2022 and details of these will be included in the next summer edition of HIYU.

Date of increase	Daily rate	% of increase	New rate
1 January 2021	0 -3 hours	5%	\$128.35
1 January 2021	3 + hours	5%	\$256.69

There has also been an increase for the mileage allowances for travel to and from Benefits Review Committees. The reimbursement rate which is based on the standard IRD rate has increased to 79 cents per kilometre for all categories of vehicles.) this has not changed and was included in HIYU December 2019

## **Changes to NZ Super and Veteran's Pension payments**

From 9 November 2020, the Government is making changes to NZ Super and Veteran's Pension. The changes aim to modernise superannuation in New Zealand. Full details are available in the link below.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2020/nz-super-and-veterans-pension-changes.html>

## **Changes for people in emergency housing from 19 October 2020**

From 19 October, everyone who's been living in emergency housing longer than 7 nights needs to pay 25% of their income towards their accommodation costs. This is called an Emergency Housing Contribution. The Ministry will continue to pay the rest of the cost in most cases.

If people are new to emergency housing or they haven't needed it for some time, most people don't need to pay for their first 7 nights.

People will pay 25% of their weekly income after tax (and their partner's income if they have one) each week they're in emergency housing. People's income may include payments from the Ministry, wages, salary or other income, or Family Tax Credits. If income is less than what people would get on Jobseeker Support, they'll pay 25% of the Jobseeker Support rate.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2020/emergency-housing-changes.html>

## **Covid-19 Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders**

A new benefit known as the Covid-19 Emergency Benefits has been introduced as of 1 December 2020.

The Covid-19 Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders is an income and asset tested benefit payable to people on a valid temporary visa who are stranded in New Zealand because of the COVID-19 pandemic and who:

- are in hardship and
- have no other means to support themselves, their partner or dependent children (if any) while they are stranded in New Zealand and
- cannot get another benefit

Each application for Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders should be assessed on its own merits.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/temporary-visa-holders.html>

## **Some RoD statistical information for the first quarter of the 2020/2021 fiscal year**

RoD Internal Review Outcomes for MSD – First Quarter 2020/21 (July to September 2020)

- Of the 1261 review applications received during the quarter, 684 cases (54% of the cases received) were resolved at the internal review stage, either by being overturned or by withdrawal by the Applicant. (311 cases were overturned, while 373 cases were withdrawn.)
- 297 (24%) decisions were upheld at Internal Review this quarter.
- 172 (21%) cases had an outcome pending

## Benefits Review Committee outcomes with hearing attendance First Quarter 2020/21

The following table shows outcomes of cases escalated to the BRC, along with details of attendance by Client, Client Representatives or both.

BRC Attendees	Service Line	BRC OUTCOME				TOTAL	% of Total Decisions
		Upheld	Overtured	Partially Upheld	Does not lie		
Client	Work and Income	65	10	3	0	78	
	Senior Services	51	6	8	0	65	
	Integrity Services	2	1	1	0	4	
	StudyLink	3	0	0	0	3	
<b>Total</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>37%</b>
Client/Client Rep	Work and Income	27	10	2	0	39	
	Senior Services	5	0	2	0	7	
	Integrity Services	4	1	0	0	5	
	StudyLink	1	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13%</b>
Client Rep	Work and Income	15	1	1	0	17	
	Senior Services	4	1	0	0	5	
	Integrity Services	2	0	0	0	2	
	StudyLink	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6%</b>
Papers only	Work and Income	99	6	3	0	108	
	Senior Services	54	3	1	0	58	
	Integrity Services	6	1	1	0	8	
	StudyLink	1	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>339</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Handy references

The following page has useful links and information about the RoD/BRC process including the expense claim form, information packs and the HIYU newsletter:

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/contact-us/complaints/review-of-decision.html>

## Feedback

Please let us know if you find these newsletters useful or if there is other information that you would like included.

The Client Advocacy and Review (CAR) team welcomes your feedback. The team's contact details are below.

### For more details contact

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