



13 February 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 January 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Would you be able to provide information or put me in touch with the right person to discuss what policies - including formal and informal/ official and unofficial - that might exist around the placement or otherwise of people into particular industries? I am most interested in the Primary Industries. As an example, i heard recently that MSD would not put people forward to work in the forestry industry because of 'concerns' as to its safety record. Any information you can provide on policies as above would be greatly appreciated.*

The Ministry has interpreted your request to relate to information about how the Ministry assists our clients to seek employment in industries.

The Ministry does not have any policies that prevent clients from choosing employment in a particular industry. The type of employment that a New Zealander chooses to enter is ultimately their choice, and the Ministry engages with people to help them find suitable and sustainable employment. You can find more information about the support that the Ministry offers on the [Work and Income website](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/job-search/index.html), here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/job-search/index.html](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/job-search/index.html).

As you have indicated that you are interested in the Ministry's role in helping New Zealanders into employment in the Primary Sector, I would like to outline the work we do in this area. Please note that this is intended to be an overview of the work the Ministry does. If you would like to receive further information about industry engagement in a specific region, please contact the Ministry.

The Ministry's Industry Partnerships (IP) team builds and manages partnerships with industry to address skill and labour shortages. The Ministry's partnerships with industry respond to the demand for workers by connecting unemployed New Zealanders with employment opportunities in

industry. Since 2003, the IP team has been engaging nationally with the Primary Sector.

In Primary Sector industries, the IP team have funded initiatives in employment areas such as meat processing, deep sea fishing and seafood processing, wool processing, horticulture, viticulture and more.

The Ministry works with the Forestry industry to support safe practices and environments for our clients. The Ministry has working partnerships with the Forestry Industry Contractors Association (FICA) and the Forestry Industry Safety Council (FISC). FICA and FISC work closely with forest owners, contractors and employers to keep our people safe.

The IP team are also active members of the Wood Council and the Silviculture Action Group, and they maintain relationships with the Forest Owners Association and First Union.

The Ministry offers Skills for Industry Programmes to businesses to assist candidates to receive industry specific training. These programmes are available where candidates need short-term pre-employment or in-work training to secure employment in an industry. Assistance for these programmes often include funding for PPE and work-related personal work equipment to keep participants safe, warm and dry while minimising risk. You can find more information about these programmes, including the eligibility requirements, on the Work and Income website here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/subsidies-training-and-other-help/skills-for-industry.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/subsidies-training-and-other-help/skills-for-industry.html).

Over the past four years, the IP team has contracted with FICA to deliver Skills for Industry Programmes that have supported hundreds of New Zealanders into employment in Silviculture. The Ministry continues to promote Primary Sector employment through our suite of programmes and VR Expos that are held across the country.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry'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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding how the Ministry supports our clients into employment, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

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**Manager Issue Resolution**  
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