

FLOORING NZ STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE APPRENTICE SUPPORT – JULY 2020

Dear FloorNZ Member

Just a reminder that on the 1 July the new Government initiatives to support apprentice training came into force.

New fund to keep apprentices in work

The government today announced funding of up to \$519.8 million to support apprentices and their employers to help protect the jobs of existing and new apprentices throughout the recovery from Covid-19.

The Apprenticeship Support Programme includes:

- Apprenticeship Boost initiative – a broad-based wage subsidy for employers to help them keep existing apprentices and employ new ones.
- Mana in Mahi – expanding the existing programme that supports at-risk people through an industry training pathway (including apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship training) and into long term sustainable work.
- Regional Apprenticeships Initiative – support for displaced regional apprentices who have lost their jobs, initially focusing on Māori and Pacific Peoples.

Employers will be able to access support from one of the above (except the Group Training Schemes fund which is not available for individual employers) depending on the type of apprentice or pre-apprentice trainee they employ.

All employers who have an apprentice will be able to receive a base subsidy rate up to \$12,000 per annum for first year apprentices and \$6,000 per annum for second year apprentices through the Apprentice Boost Initiative. Mana in Mahi and some Regional Apprenticeships participants will get a higher subsidy to reflect the different level of need of the individual apprentices (or pre-apprentice trainees) involved.

\$320m targeted investment support for free trades training in critical industries

This new fund will make a range of training and apprenticeship programmes free for learner – for all ages, not just school leavers – over the next two years. This will be in addition to any fees-free support the learner has accessed and will help learners of looking to gain skills or re-train in these targeted areas.

The fund will be available from 1 July 2020, and it will be targeted at specific vocational areas where demand from employers is already strong or expected to grow over the coming years. It will include courses linked to industry skills needs, in building and construction of which flooring is a part.

Regards

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