

EMPLOYMENT NEW ZEALAND



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Welcome to the Employment New Zealand newsletter. Here you will find the latest news and information about employment rights and responsibilities.

You are receiving this email because your business has opted to provide its email publicly on the New Zealand Business Number (NZBN) website or you have subscribed to our newsletter. As a business or a worker, we think you will be interested in hearing about the latest employment news and information. However, if you consider this newsletter not relevant, please unsubscribe at the bottom of this newsletter.

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COVID-19 vaccination and employment

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COVID-19 vaccines will play a critical role in protecting the health and wellbeing of people in New Zealand. Over time, this will enable our social, economic and cultural recovery. Workplaces are a crucial part of making access to vaccines as easy as possible. Employers and employees may have questions concerning the COVID-19 vaccine and employment.

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Support for businesses during COVID-19

Support is available for businesses during COVID-19. This includes the Short-Term Absence payment and Resurgence Support Payment.

The Short-Term Absence Payment is for employers to pay their workers in situations where workers need to stay home and cannot work from home while they are waiting for a COVID-19 test result. Employers can apply for the scheme to pay their employees. The self-employed or contractors can apply directly.

Should COVID-19 Alert Levels increase from Level 1 for a week or more, businesses and organisations who experience a 30% drop in revenue can apply for the new Resurgence Support Payment.

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Are you prepared for minimum wage increase to \$20?

From 1 April 2021 the minimum wage is increasing to \$20 an hour. Make sure you are ready for the change by following our four steps. These include advising your team, checking your payroll systems, updating your budget and upskilling on wage obligations.

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Liquor store loses license after employment law non-compliance

Following five years of systematic employment law non-compliance, Thirsty Liquor Tokoroa has lost its alcohol license. The liquor store had severe deficiencies in record keeping, staff rostering, provision for staff welfare breaks and inadequate payment for hours worked, holiday pay and the taking of holidays.

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Work visa extensions and changes to visa conditions

Adjustments to visa settings announced by Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi in December 2020 have allowed many migrant workers in New Zealand to stay and work here for longer.

Extended by 6 months were visas expiring between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021 (inclusive) held by employer-assisted migrant workers in New Zealand on 1 January 2021. Visas held by their partners and dependent children were also extended.

Also extended by 6 months were Working Holiday Scheme or Working Holiday Extension visas expiring between 21 December 2020 and 30 June 2021 (inclusive) held by workers in New Zealand on 21 December 2020.

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