

WGANZ COVID-19 BULLETIN 4 June 2020

New COVID Income Relief Payment for unemployed introduced

The Government has announced a new temporary payment to help those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 since 1 March this year, to adjust and find new employment or retrain.

The payment will be available for **12 weeks from 8 June**. It will pay **\$490 a week to those who lost full-time work and \$250 for part-time**. **The payment will not be taxed.**

The new COVID Income Relief Payment is being introduced alongside a wider work programme on **possible future employment insurance** as we rebuild our economy in a way that supports workers and businesses together.

People with partners who are still working may be eligible for this payment, **as long as their partner is earning under \$2000 per week**.

Receipt of the payment comes with expectations from the Government, and responsibilities. People who receive the COVID payment will be required to:

- Be available for, and actively seeking, suitable work opportunities while they receive the payment
- Take appropriate steps towards gaining new employment; and
- Identify and take opportunities for employment, re-deployment and training.

Students who have lost part-time work as a result of COVID-19 may also be eligible for the part-time rate.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson confirmed that work is underway on the possibility of a more permanent unemployment insurance scheme in New Zealand. The Future of Work Ministers group has commissioned the work following a request from Business New Zealand and the Council of Trade Unions.

“As we move from the respond and recover phases of our COVID response, and towards rebuilding the economy, we have an opportunity to reset some of the foundations of the safety net for working New Zealanders.

“Around the world there are many examples of countries that created strong systems to cushion the blow of job loss through both income protection and retraining. These schemes ensure

workers don't suffer large income drops if they're made redundant through no fault of their own and save on redundancy costs for businesses going through restructuring.”

More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

A look at Alert Level 1

Alert Level 1 sees everyone being able to return without restriction to work, school, sports and domestic travel, and you can get together with as many people as you want.

Controls at the borders remain for those entering New Zealand, including health screening and testing for all arrivals, and mandatory 14-day managed quarantine or isolation.

It's also important that we keep the basic hygiene measures that worked so well through higher Alert Levels going.

Cabinet will decide on Monday 8 June whether and when to move to Alert Level 1. **Until then, Alert Level 2 measures apply.**

This bulletin is brought to you by AdviceWise People - 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the bulletin above, please call Philip or Anthony.
