

Stronger measures to combat migrant worker exploitation

- Offence and penalty regime significantly strengthened
- New infringement offences for non-compliance
- Public register of individuals and businesses that are found guilty of migrant exploitation
- New community-led pilot to educate migrants workers and employers of employment rights

The Government has introduced the Worker Protection (Migrant and Other Employees) Bill designed to protect migrant workers from exploitation, says Associate Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Priyanca Radhakrishnan.

“With our borders open once again, and near record low unemployment, migrant workers are returning to New Zealand, helping to grow our economy and bring new perspectives to our communities,” Priyanca Radhakrishnan said.

The Worker Protection (Migrant and Other Employees) Bill will introduce the remaining changes from the Government’s Temporary Migrant Worker Exploitation Review completed in 2020, including establishing an infringement regime.

This builds on the first tranche of changes that came into effect in July 2021 and included a dedicated 0800 number and reporting and triaging web form, the Migrant Exploitation Protection Visa which has seen over 119 visas granted in the year ending July 2022 to safeguard workers, and liaison support services for victims of migrant exploitation.

“These initiatives have resulted in more people coming forward to report migrant exploitation with 956 reports between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 – up from just 173 in the previous year,” Priyanca Radhakrishnan said.

The Worker Protection (Migrant and Other Employees) Bill will:

- Disqualify persons convicted of migrant exploitation or people trafficking from managing or directing a company
- Establish three new Immigration Act infringement offences
- Create a document production power for immigration officers
- Allow labour inspectors and immigration officers to issue an infringement notice where employers fail to provide requested documents within a reasonable timeframe
- Expand the stand-down list to cover offending under the Immigration Act

Source: [Beehive](#)

ACC change to support 28,000 parents

Nearly 50 years since ACC legislation was first passed, birthing parents who are injured during childbirth will be covered by ACC.

- The Maternal Birth Injury and Other Matters Bill is the first amendment to ACC legislation of its kind
- From 1 October 2022, new ACC cover to benefit approximately 28,000 birthing parents
- Additional maternal birth injuries added alongside new review provision to ensure cover remains comprehensive
- Greater clarity for claimants and health professionals.

“This is an incredibly important day for birthing parents, with the passage of this Bill representing a significant step towards improving gender balance, fairness and equity in the Accident Compensation Scheme,” Minister for ACC Carmel Sepuloni said.

“On 28 September 2021, I announced that we would be amending ACC legislation to cover more injuries experienced by women during childbirth. Less than a year later, we’ve taken action to deliver a change that’ll benefit an estimated 28,000 birthing parents per year,” Carmel Sepuloni said.

“This followed on from an article I read about the growing number of women experiencing injuries when giving birth, and their struggle for treatment. It was a distressing read, but I instantly knew that this was something that needed to change.

“More than 70 per cent of people giving birth in Aotearoa New Zealand may experience an injury during labour or birth. It’s fair that these injuries, some of which can be severe, are covered by ACC.

“That’s why we’ve taken steps to ensure birth injuries are covered, making changes to the legislation and including a list of covered injuries. The list includes all injuries that result from the birthing process – from onset of labour through to the baby being delivered,” Carmel Sepuloni said.

As is normal under ACC, follow-on injuries directly related to those listed will also be covered, including mental injuries caused by physical injuries. Other injuries which are caused by those listed will be covered by ACC, therefore birthing parents have no need to worry about further complications from a covered injury.

As a commitment to providing comprehensive cover, the list of injuries will now be regularly reviewed after it is implemented to make sure no birthing parent is missing out.

Including cover for these injuries will mean birthing parents can access existing support and treatment available through the AC Scheme, including support for mental injuries that are caused by physical injuries.

Source: [Beehive](#)

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