

Fair Pay Agreements

MBIE is offering a free online webinar explaining employers' rights and responsibilities on Tuesday 28 February from 3 to 4.15pm. Register [here](#).

According to MBIE's [FPA dashboard](#) there are still only 4 applications (all from unions) in train –

- *Unite Union* to cover Hospitality related general.
- *Amalgamated Workers Union* to cover Interurban, rural and urban bus transport bus and coach drivers.
- *First Union* to cover Interurban, rural and urban bus transport bus and coach drivers and cleaners.
- *First Union* to cover Supermarket and grocery stores.

MBIE has not called for public submissions at this stage.

New Upskilling options for migrant workers

- Settings for migrant workers updated.
- Might be eligible for training or study fees.
- Might get support to keep or take on new apprentices.
- Excludes Working holiday visas.

On 16 January 2023 the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) released a [list](#) of vocational qualifications, programmes and micro-credentials that will receive domestic tuition subsidies in 2023, for non-domestic learners.

Following the Government's updated immigration settings announced on 12 December 2022, TEC revised the list of eligible programmes to reflect registered nurses and midwives being added to the Green List published on New Zealand Immigration's website.

In approving implementation of the unified funding system for the Reform of Vocational Education, Cabinet removed training subsidy eligibility for non-domestic tertiary students.

However, the Government agreed to a targeted exemptions process to still subsidise work-based learning that was in the national interest.

Accordingly, the list aligns with the [Green List](#) and [Sector Agreements](#) developed by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) earlier this year, as part of the Government's Immigration Rebalance policy.

The Green List helps employers hire migrants for specified high-skilled occupations, such as those in the construction, engineering, trades, health, and ICT sectors. These roles have registration, qualification, or experience requirements. Employers won't need to provide proof of advertising and migrants will have a pathway to residence.

The Sector Agreements cover the care workforce, construction and infrastructure, meat processing, seafood, seasonal snow and adventure tourism sectors, and provide for a short-term or ongoing need for access to lower-paid migrants. They came into effect in October 2022.

The exemptions scheme is designed to support the Government's objective of achieving a higher skilled migrant workforce, with the right skill mix to support New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19 and transition to a more productive and sustainable economy.

Note: Working holiday visas are not eligible and are excluded from the non-domestic learner's exemption scheme.

COVID-19 research

On 25 January 2023 Business.Govt.nz's newsletter invited recipients to share their experience of governance during COVID-19.

"Tell us how useful you found company governance laws during the pandemic. You'll be helping us and Kiwi businesses better prepare for future events." it urged.

Interested? Sorry, too late: The survey closed at 5pm, 30 January – 3 working days later...

This article is brought to you by AdviceWise People, who provide WGANZ's free employment helpline 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the article, please call Philip or Anthony.