

The Jobs Letter

No. 110

22 October 1999

Essential Information on an Essential Issue

SPECIAL

ELECTION 99
THE JOBS POLICIES

As the election campaign heats up, the New Zealand Herald/DigiPoll survey confirms that unemployment is the issue of greatest concern to New Zealanders.

In this special issue, The Jobs Letter presents what the main parties say they will do about New Zealand's greatest challenge: jobs.

Compare the policies ... and judge for yourself.



NATIONAL

Hon Roger Sowry, the Minister of Social Services, Work and Income
National spokesperson on employment

<http://www.national.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

National's policies have created over 270,000 new jobs since 1991, and our strong economic and employment policies will continue to encourage employers to create jobs.

National believes economic growth is one key to reducing overall unemployment. It is New Zealand's economic environment that largely enables businesses to expand

and prosper, providing the conditions for sustainable job growth. We need to ensure New Zealand's economy is growing enough to absorb the 20,000 plus job seekers joining the work-seeking population each year, and to reduce the existing numbers of unemployed people.

National will focus our resources on cutting long-term unemployment – Work and Income New Zealand's resources are targeted at cutting the length of time people remain unemployed. We will also focus on changing the way job-seekers are treated while they are between jobs and receiving State support. We will continue with initiatives like the Community Work scheme and Worktrack, which enable participants to build up their confidence and motivation and develop work skills.

- National has introduced the Community Wage as a new direction for job seekers. In return for receiving the wage, people who are able to work are expected to be available for suitable community work, training or other organised activities which can be provided in their area for up to 20 hours per week.

The aim is to both reduce the duration of unemployment and keep as many job seekers as possible active between jobs. The principle target group is the long-term unemployed and those at risk of long-term unemployment (people who have been out of work for longer than six months).

Over 25,000 long-term unemployed people, or those at risk of long-term unemployment, have participated in Community Work, or its predecessor, Community Taskforce, over the year to June 30 1999.

- National introduced Work Track pilot programmes in 13 regions this year. Work Track is an early intervention programme covering CV preparation, interview skills, motivation and supervised job search. The programme has already been extremely well received, and the completed programmes are showing excellent results. The launch of Work Track has been followed up with a print media campaign to heighten the awareness of employers to Work and Income New Zealand's job seekers.

- National will continue to support the Community Employment Group, in its works with communities and community groups.

The Jobs Letter : ESSENTIAL INFORMATION and MEDIA WATCH on JOBS

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, the FUTURE of WORK, and related EDUCATION and ECONOMIC issues

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2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

A high priority of any National Government for the future of work and income is to sustain strong economic growth as a secure basis for on-going job growth and rising living standards for all New Zealanders.

National's aim is to continue to create opportunities to help unemployed New Zealanders to move from dependence to participation in the paid work force. We believe in giving people the skills they need to help themselves and the skills they need to move into paid employment, while at the same time, alleviating hardship and guaranteeing help for those genuinely in need.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

National would not make any changes to Work and Income New Zealand. Since WINZ was established, it has had had a number of successes including:

— Record number of people on the Domestic Purposes Benefit going into work – over the year to July 1999 a record of 9,700 Domestic Purposes Beneficiaries found work, including two who had been on the DPB for over 20 years.

— Over 25,000 of the long-term unemployed, or those at risk of long-term unemployment, have participated in Community Work, or its predecessor, Community Taskforce, over the financial year to June 30 1999.

— Around 4,500 community organisations are taking Community Work job seekers on.

— Job seekers are now getting personalised support – each person gets focused help with their benefits and with their job search, from a personal case manager.

— There has been a 30% drop under this Government, with people who have been out of work for four years or more dropping from 14,800 to 10,200.

— Taxpayer savings – an estimated \$162 million will be saved over the first 10 years as a result of the integration of the offices and staff of the Employment Service, CEG and Income Support.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

National supports the community wage as it helps job seekers with their self confidence, self esteem, job skills and helps provide them with the positive motivation needed to get to work.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

National will continually evaluate the employment programmes run by WINZ, to ensure they are working well. WINZ currently places over 100 of its customers into jobs each day, and National will continue to work to ensure that WINZ's employment programmes continue to operate successfully and that new programmes are implemented as necessary.

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

National places a high priority on people having the skills needed to succeed in the 21st Century. We believe that training should be industry driven and flexible.

National will continue to provide education, skills and training for the unemployed with initiatives like Work Track, the Community work scheme, and Skill New Zealand.

Skills NZ is a government agency which buys training for people who are unemployed or have low qualifications. Skill NZ offers training programme in many areas, from forestry and fishing, to building, painting and decorating, to retail, hospitality and catering and other specialised work-based training options. Programmes build towards national qualifications designed by industry, and providing the training employers want for future employees.

Skill NZ has found that there is a strong link between credit achievement on the NZQA framework and a positive employment or further training outcome, so many programmes are now linked to the NZQA.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

The successful Community Work scheme has helped encourage local government to be active in helping to reduce unemployment. Regional and territorial authorities are among the 4,500 plus community organisations that have endorsed the scheme, providing community work for job seekers on the scheme.

8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

National will continue to encourage community groups to be active in solving unemployment.

We will continue to support the Community Employment Group (part of WINZ), in its works with communities and community groups to help them create local opportunities for employment and activities that lead to self-sufficiency.

CEG has fieldworkers throughout New Zealand who work alongside community groups, helping them develop their own ideas for community employment and economic development.

CEG's priority groups for assistance are women, Maori, Pacific peoples, and rural and urban disadvantaged communities. It is these groups, that often face the most difficult employment problems, that National wants to help.

Projects that have been developed with the assistance of CEG include alternative uses for Maori-owned land, initiatives to assist women returning to the workforce, and projects which address the employment needs of ex-prison inmates, new migrants and the growing numbers of older job seekers.



LABOUR

Steve Maharey MP
Labour spokesperson on employment

<http://www.labour.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

Labour believes that full employment is possible. Our policies fall into the following categories::

- expanding the demand for labour through economic policies designed to create growth;
- making full employment a key aim of government policy;
- local economic development through a local economic assistance fund, public sector employment and a new activity in the community programme;
- maintaining employability through case management, investment in training, intermediate labour market, small business assistance, childcare, better incentives for beneficiaries seeking to take on paid employment, making use of the benefit to create jobs.
- a "futurework" programme designed to promote policies such as family friendly workplaces which will lift productivity while encouraging a better balance between family and work responsibilities.

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

To undo the changes created by merging Income Support, Employment Service and the Community Employment Group would be a huge and expensive task. Work and Income New Zealand will remain the main delivery agent for employment programmes and income

support. However while Labour will work within the current structure we will reconfigure the organisation and ensure staff are able to specialise in addressing the needs of either job seekers or non-job-seekers.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

Labour will change the way Work and Income New Zealand operates to make it more transparent and accountable. This includes re-establishing a public service ethic within WINZ; having community input into policies and the way in which WINZ delivers services to communities; and setting clear expectations for the Department and being proactive in holding the chief executive accountable for meeting those goals.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

Labour will scrap the current community wage. Labour believes it is much better to give unemployed people a range of options from which to choose rather than simply forcing them to accept any work which is temporarily available.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

Taskforce Green numbers have almost halved from 2,752 in December 1996 to 1,456 in June 1999, a 47% decline. Job Plus numbers are down from 7,915 to 6,668, a cut of 16%. Labour supports the use of subsidy schemes and sees them as a valuable tool in assisting people back into work. The most important innovation will be Labour's Community Enterprise Organisations (CEOs). CEOs are an example of third sector employment, will operate as small businesses and make use of the benefit to provide the basis of a wage for the people employed.

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

A skilled workforce is the key to a high wage, knowledge-based society. Our future prosperity as a country requires effective pathways for present and future workers to gain higher qualifications and increased skills. Labour will develop a comprehensive strategy for training and employment, linked to Labour's industry development policies to promote growth and jobs, and expand Skill New Zealand so it can lead the strategy to make New Zealand the most skilled nation in the world.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

Labour will work with local government to encourage innovative local initiatives designed to build the capacity of communities. This includes work on the research and development of local responses to social issues; the identification and development of local social development clusters, and the social entrepreneurs needed to maintain this process; identified and specific initiatives aimed at encouraging local people to build the capacity of their community; and initiatives to increase opportunities for local democracy.

8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

Many of Labour's policies are designed to encourage greater local leadership on a range of issues. Our policies will help rebuild local economies and require government services to have a stronger local focus. We want people to get involved. Labour will assist the development of com-

munity services through Community Employment Opportunities (CEOs) programme. CEOs will be required to pay at least the minimum wage, but will receive the payment of the equivalent of the unemployment benefit for all unemployed people taken on. The work will have to be approved by a local community committee to ensure it fits within the guidelines.



ALLIANCE

**Jim Anderton MP, Leader of the Alliance
Alliance spokesperson on employment**

<http://www.alliance.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

The Alliance is committed to full employment and to help achieve this will extend the role of government to include responsibility for economic and regional development.

Long term sustainable employment is only possible if a different approach is taken to our macro economic policy. Unemployment occurs because the government tolerates it. The Alliance will restructure Treasury and reorient the Reserve Bank's monetary policy to ensure that full employment is a key economic goal. This will be done in conjunction with our regionally based economic development plan, which will create jobs.

The Alliance sees investment in regions as the key to addressing the problem of unemployment and will provide an initial capital fund of \$200 million to an Economic Development Fund. Under this fund, the Alliance aims to create 80,000 new jobs in its term as part of the next government.

The Alliance will establish Regional Development Agencies to work through local communities to utilise the human and physical resources peculiar to each region to build new industries and to create sustainable job opportunities.

Investment opportunities could be as wide in scope as new housing built by young building apprentices or new technology electronics companies such as Tait Electronics.

The Alliance will establish a Ministry of Economic Development and Employment, which will take over the economic development policy functions of Treasury and implement a range of active economic development policies.

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

The Alliance is committed to full employment, an adequate income and a good standard of social well-being for all. The Alliance has a range of policies to achieve these things.

Alliance policies on work place relations are designed to increase social well being around issues of work and income. We will increase the minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour, legislate for 4 weeks minimum annual leave entitlement and 12 weeks paid parental leave. We will abolish the Employment Contracts Act. The industrial relations environment will be reformed to emphasise co-operation and real wage and productivity improvements.

The Alliance recognises that the role and nature of work is changing radically. Advanced technology has reduced the need to work forty hours a week to meet our collective needs. The Alliance will investigate measures that will shorten the working week and encourage work to be shared more equitably.

To ensure that all people have an adequate income, the Alliance will instigate a major review of the income support system to raise the standard of living for beneficiaries.

There will be an investigation into the feasibility of a universal basic income (UBI) to provide non-stigmatised support to waged and unwaged workers, including caregivers.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

The Alliance will get rid of the corporate business culture at WINZ which has it calling beneficiaries customers. We will re-introduce the ethic of public service and the focus will be on ensuring that the needs of beneficiaries are met.

There are many internal systems and processes that need to be reviewed in order to ensure that the staff at WINZ deliver adequate assistance to beneficiaries.

The Alliance will undertake to review these in consultation with the advocacy groups that have the day to day knowledge of the failings of the current systems and policies of WINZ.

Under our Economic Development policy, there will be a wide sweeping change in the way employment is handled by government. In the light of this, the role that WINZ plays in employment policy will be reviewed.

The Alliance will create a new Ministry of Economic Development and Employment. This Ministry will have responsibility for employment matters and the Minister of Employment will appoint regional employment commissioners who will take an overview of the employment needs of the region. These officials will work flexibly with local communities to find and develop employment opportunities.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

The Alliance will rescind the Community Wage. We will revoke the changes made brought in under the legislation the Social Security Act (amendment no 5) and the Social Security (work-test) Amendment Act.

This means that we will reverse those changes made to benefits (such as cutting the sickness benefit rate, changing the criteria for the Invalids Benefit, excluding students from income support) as well as getting rid of the requirement to engage in 'organised activities' as set by WINZ.

The Alliance rejects work-for-the-dole schemes as punitive and doomed to failure and will invest in real job creation.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

The current employment subsidised work programmes represent a pitiful investment in employment creation by the current government.

The Alliance will pursue the goal of full, sustainable employment and in doing so will substantially invest in the creation of real job opportunities through its regional economic development plan.

The structure for developing employment opportunities will be the responsibility of the new Ministry of Economic Development and Employment.

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

The Alliance is committed to a free, high quality, fully funded, public tertiary education system. The student loan scheme will be scrapped and there will be no fees. This will allow all people to have access to free tertiary education in public institutions.

The Alliance will review the current approach taken to training including the roles of NZQA, Skill New Zealand and the ITOs in order to develop a co-ordinated vocational training plan for New Zealand.

Our vocational training plan will ensure that training provision has clear employment, industry, and local economic development objectives. The Alliance training policy is part of our Regional Economic Development policy.

The Alliance will aim to ensure that all people under 20 have access to a job, trades or technical training or full-time education. It will also ensure that people will be able to train and re-train throughout their working lives. Training will take place in adequately resourced training facilities the standards of which are properly monitored and which provide qualifications leading to access to jobs.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

Local government will be encouraged through the visible commitment to regional development in their area. The Alliance plan for regionally based economic development will see government enter a partnership with local government to strengthen the regions of New Zealand. Under this plan initiatives and proposals will not be imposed by central agencies but will happen in partnership with industry and communities, and local government will play a key role in this.

Partnership 2000 will offer real opportunity for economic development in local areas, with the establishment of an Economic Development Fund and Regional Development Agencies. The EDF and Regional Development Agencies will take a flexible approach to their work and will work closely with industry and communities, including local government, to develop guidelines for investment in sustainable development.

8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

Community groups will be encouraged by being given real support and resources. Regional Development Agencies will work through local communities to utilise the human and physical resources specific to each region to build new industries and create sustainable job opportunities.

Community groups will be encouraged to participate in the development of guidelines for investment in economic development in their local region.

Their employment initiatives will be eligible for funding under the Economic Development Fund.

The Jobs Letter



ACT

Donna Awatere Huata MP
Act spokesperson on employment

<http://www.act.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

Our current unemployment rate is too high. It is also unnecessary: we know how to keep unemployment as low as possible. Sadly, the government's disastrous policies of high taxation and greater regulation have resulted in fewer jobs being created.

ACT is the only party with a strategy of hope for the unemployed. ACT believes:

- That the key to low unemployment is to remove government-imposed barriers to work.
- That lower taxes help people to shift from welfare to work.
- That the unemployment benefit should be a short-term option only. It should not be a lifestyle choice, and there should be limits to how long on able-bodied person can remain on the benefit.

ACT believes that moving from Welfare to Work is a full time commitment. A fully-funded Welfare to Work scheme that involved community-based providers, together with ACT's proposals to create new jobs, could lower the number of people registered as unemployed by a third within three years. ACT believes that unemployment at levels of around 1-2% is achievable and sustainable. Its goal is to have the lowest unemployment rate in the OECD.

Greater freedom in the workplace is one of the keys to creating more jobs. ACT will liberalise labour relations by:

- Repealing the minimum wage, which has been demonstrated to cost jobs among low skilled workers.
- Creating a proper labour law framework that will encourage job growth, including amending the Employment Contracts Act and the Holidays Act.

Lower taxes are another way to help people shift from welfare to work. Higher take-home pay rewards a person for taking a job rather than remaining on a benefit, while reduced business taxes encourage an employer to take on new staff. ACT is the only party committed to major and ongoing tax reductions. It will introduce a flat rate of income tax, and a tax-free threshold for families.

Under ACT specific work and training programmes will be developed for the remaining unemployed. ACT wants to break the cycle of dependency, and believes that those who can work, should work. People will be assigned to activities aimed at providing them with the skills, confidence and work habits necessary for standing on their own feet.

ACT's direct assistance to the unemployed, along with economic policies that remove barriers to job creation, will provide all unemployed New Zealanders with a route to the workplace. In these circumstances it is reasonable to impose a time limit on the receipt of unemployment benefit.

ACT will:

- Tighten procedures whereby unemployment beneficiaries are tested as to whether they are actively searching for work.
- Introduce a limit of two years for receipt of welfare without working,

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

The rationalization of employment and welfare was a positive move, however there are some operational difficulties which need to be addressed.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

No comment provided.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

ACT will press for the community wage to be retained and expanded. ACT believes that, bureaucratic as the scheme is, the community wage is a success. 30% of those on the community wage scheme have gone on to real jobs.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

ACT intends that through a fully-funded Welfare to Work scheme which involves community-based providers, together with ACT's proposals to create new jobs, to lower the number of registered unemployed by a third within three years. ACT also believes that there are excellent community-run programmes around the coun-

try that are achieving outstanding results. These programmes are focused on the needs of individual job-seekers and that is why they are succeeding.

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

ACT's major priority is to get people working, and to break the cycle of dependency.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

By encouraging local government to support community-based welfare programmes, cut taxes, government

red tape and bureaucracy. Government policy must assist those on welfare to overcome any barriers to work.

8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

By providing funding for community-based welfare programmes, ensure that assistance is tailored to meet the needs of individuals and move from the "one-size-fits-all" welfare state. Also, by making it easier for businesses to hire more staff, cutting taxes, government red tape and bureaucracy.



Green
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

GREEN

Sue Bradford

Green spokesperson on employment

<http://www.greens.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

The Green Party recognises that meaningful work is a key way in which people are valued and feel able to contribute. We are committed to shifting our economy to one that uses resources sparingly and is rich in meaningful work. At a national level our commitment to shifting taxes from work and enterprise to pollution, waste and

scarce resources, fair trade, localisation and decentralisation and strong communities all support job creation.

At a community level we will:

- extend the Green 'buy local' campaigns, which encourage people to support local retailers and producers.
- assist in establishing a national Community Development Bank with local branches, similar to the Bendigo Bank in Australia, to encourage local saving and investment.
- provide better infrastructure, resourcing and support for community based organisations and small and community owned businesses, so that they can assist in bringing jobs and life back to local areas.

These measures will be supported by government investment in communities to support ecological restoration, preventative health, education, housing, sustainable transport, and the arts. We will also ensure that the Reserve Bank takes into account all the effects of its policies, rather than solely focusing on inflation.

The Green Party is uniquely committed to creating good work; work that provides a meaningful income; work that allows strong communities to support the equally important voluntary and unpaid work; work that helps us build our communities and create a cleaner world.

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

As a country we need to change the way we think about work and income. The Green Party recognise the human need to work and participate in society, and at the same time we honour all forms of labour: paid, unpaid, voluntary and in the informal sector of household and community. The capacity to earn an income relies on many unrecognised contributions from the community and the broader environment.

One first concrete step we advocate in this area is the establishment of an intelligent and far reaching commission with representation from all sectors to consider present practices, attitudes and values to work. The commission's mandate would include examining:

- the possibility of introducing a shorter 35 hour working week and other forms of reorganising work; and

- the redefinition of work in the light of the need to recognise many more forms of socially and environmentally necessary work as valid contributions to society; and
- facilitate public debate and discussion around these subjects.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

We advocate that WINZ be restructured from the top down. Given that it retains its joint employment and income support focus, we believe that its ethos must be changed to include a commitment to:

- Working with the private, public and community sector in a developmental way to create meaningful work in environmentally friendly jobs.
- Respecting the dignity and needs of all those who use its services, and its staff.
- Work with other agencies to providing individualised vocational guidance to all job seekers.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

We support work that provides people with dignity and self-respect. We value both paid and unpaid work. The compulsory Community Work scheme will be abolished. The Green Party supports

- employment creation schemes that provide unemployed people with real work for at least the minimum adult wage, with all the protections offered others in the workforce; and
- genuine volunteering as a vital component of a good society.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes? What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

Our main commitment to work is through the structural changes outlined above. Without an overall commitment to meaningful work, training alone cannot solve unemployment. With this caveat, we support the expansion, upgrading and diversification of work programmes in rebuilding communities and ecological restoration. We will promote training and development for young people in place of low-paid, short-term 'McJobs' and the displacement of older employees.

6. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

The Greens want to see local government given more flexibility to respond to community needs. This will be matched by stronger obligations for participatory local decision-making. Government can help create an environment of trust between Government, Local Government, business and the community sectors, and can create the national frameworks which encourage local initiatives. Local Government is then both empowered and encouraged to play a facilitative and resourcing role in working to help solve unemployment through a diverse range of strategies.

7. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

The Greens are committed to an active partnership and dialogue between community organisations and government. Government has an active and supportive role to play in encouraging the development of community owned businesses, community support and welfare organisations and cooperatives which work in the areas of employment creation and environmental, social and economic improvement. This partnership must include adequate resourcing, the willingness to forge genuine partnerships based on mutual accountability, and recognition of the right of voluntary organisations to engage in political lobbying, advocacy and campaigning. This reflects the legitimate role of government in nurturing and empowering strong communities.



MAURI PACIFIC

**Hon Tau Henare, Minister of Maori Affairs, Leader of Mauri Pacific
Employment spokesperson has not been determined**

<http://www.mauripacific.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

Although the unemployment rate for Maori is falling (19.5% - Dec 1998/19.0% March 99), they are still over-represented in unemployment statistics. The statistics: 18.2% of the Maori working population are unemployed, compared to 5.1% of non-Maori unemployed.

Mauri Pacific proposes to confront Maori unemployment by:

- Bolstering capital funding to build the Maori economic base
- Trade training schemes to improve Maori skill base
- Developing a National Maori employment strategy
- Funding holistic-training providers
- Job retention incentive

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

There is a cultural element missing in work creation for Maori and Pacific Island people. Mauri Pacific will examine ways to promote cultural diversity in work creating schemes, and how that can be translated into a decent income.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

Employment policies have lacked a cultural focus, and to date WINZ has been operating without a Maori employment policy. This is despite the overwhelming numbers of Maori who are WINZ clients. Mauri Pacific has identified four problem areas in WINZ employment policies and implementation:

- no specific national policy to address Maori unemployment
- no cultural focus of unemployment policies
- policies which focus on the unemployed individual rather than the whanau
- inflexible measures which do not take into account regional differences.

Mauri Pacific will establish regional Maori units within WINZ. These units will identify the skills and training required to fill job vacancies in each region, and work in partnership with Maori community groups who will be contracted to provide training courses, and whanau support services

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

The Community wage has resulted in the shuffling of unemployed workers, rather than providing real and meaningful work for the unemployed. Mauri Pacific seriously questions whether this policy is worth maintaining.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

Mauri Pacific believes that some employers have abused the JobPlus system, hiring unemployed individuals for six months to take advantage of the subsidies. This just hurts the individuals who are given a false sense of

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

Mauri Pacific would continue the trade training schemes. Mauri Pacific would fully supplement beneficiaries who want to take up university or polytech courses. In our education policy, it states that we would fund continuing education for teenage mothers to ensure that they have some qualifications when they return to the workforce.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

Mauri Pacific's policy on employment supports creating partnerships with local bodies to encourage business growth in the regions. The party recognises that there are issues like transport costs and skilled labour that hinder businesses setting up in areas like the East Coast and Northland. Mauri Pacific would work with local bodies to overcome these issues to attract new businesses to regions with high unemployment.

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8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

Community groups need more flexibility to administer any policy. They also need the room to tailor government

policies, and trade training to suit regional needs, because each region comes with different resources and advantages which need to be honed to benefit the local community.



NZ FIRST

Hon Brian Donnelly
NZ First spokesperson on employment

<http://www.nzfirst.org.nz/>

1. What are your employment policies? What employment initiatives will your government take?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a number of employment issues of concern to your readers. New Zealand First has not yet released all of its policies. In the absence of a comprehensive policy document the following should give a general outline of our philosophy and intent. New Zealand First believes that if we are going to reduce unemployment we must actively intervene to grow the economy. This means providing incentives to businesses which create more jobs.

2. What is your party view on the future of work and income?

No comment provided.

3. What changes, if any, would you make to the new Winz department?

The one-stop-shop was a New Zealand First initiative. We believe in a case management approach and will retain and refine the approach where necessary.

We would loosen the criteria binding the actions of the Regional Commissioner to enable the community wage scheme to work efficiently and to allow community workers to be employed in a broader range of situations.

4. What are your policies on the Community Wage?

We started the community wage and are committed to the concept of reciprocal obligations. We believe the definition of community work should be broadened.

5. Will you make any changes or additions to the Winz employment subsidised work programmes?

We would seek to expand the WINZ employment subsidised work programmes.

6. What are your policies and initiatives on education and training for the unemployed?

We will change the perverse initiatives which private training providers presently face to positive incentives for quality educational outcomes.

7. How will you encourage local government to be active in solving unemployment?

We will make involvement in employment issues a local government responsibility with appropriate accountabilities.

8. How will you encourage community groups working in this field?

We will remove many of the hurdles currently preventing community groups from achieving their objectives.

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