

The Families Commission

Chief Commissioner Position Description

The Families Commission is an autonomous Crown entity established under the Families Commission Act 2003. Its main function is to act as an advocate for the interest of families generally.

Under the Families Commission Amendment Bill, which is currently before Parliament, the Commission will acquire the additional main function of monitoring and evaluating programmes and interventions in the social sector, and providing social science research into key issues.

The Commission is based in Wellington and employs around 28 staff. Its current budget provides for expenditure of \$7.396m per annum.

Chief Commissioner

The Chief Commissioner is the chairperson of the Commission. He or she provides leadership in the work and governance of the Commission, and acts as the main spokesperson and public face of the Commission.

Working with the Chief Executive of the Commission, he/she will lead the Commission to become the recognised leader in independent research, helping government develop and deliver policies and services to promote and serve the interests of families.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

It is expected that the Chief Commissioner will have:

- experience in chairing governance bodies
- leading and implementing change
- political acumen and judgement
- sound understanding of public sector management processes
- strong relationship management and communication skills

- the ability to influence policy through the provision of high quality research and evaluation techniques.

The Chief Commissioner also needs to have a breadth of experience and expertise, and knowledge of:

- the different matters likely to come before the Commission; and
- the needs and aspirations of different communities of interest and population groups in New Zealand society.

A detailed list is contained in Appendix 1.

Term of Office

Appointments will be made by the Minister responsible for the Families Commission for a term of up to three years. Commissioners may be reappointed.

Fees

Commissioners are entitled to receive from the Commission's funds remuneration in accordance with the fees framework. The current daily rate for the Chief Commissioner is \$775 per day.

It is expected that the Chief Commissioner will work up to 100 days per year on Commission business.

Expenses incurred in carrying out his or her office as a Commissioner are also able to be paid for in accordance with the fees framework.

An appointee must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Crown Entities Act 2004 (see Appendix 2).

Skills, knowledge and experience required by Families Commissioners

In all aspects of their work Families Commissioners must also be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of the diversity of New Zealand families and family groups with particular reference to Māori
- general knowledge and understanding of the family law of New Zealand and international conventions and agreements relating to families
- knowledge and recognition of the social, cultural and religious values of different cultural and ethnic groups in New Zealand
- strong analytical skills and clarity of thought
- the ability to exercise sound judgement and discretion at all times
- the ability to create and maintain effective relationships between the Commission and other bodies or persons including other government departments within the social sector and non-government organisations
- general knowledge and understanding of government policy and legislative processes.

Eligibility for Appointment

The following people are disqualified from being a Commissioner under Section 30 of the Crown Entities Act 2004:

- a person who is an undischarged bankrupt
- a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, or the Securities Act 1978, or the Securities Markets Act 1988, or the Takeovers Act 1993
- a person who is subject to a property order under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988
- a person who has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or more, or who has been sentenced to imprisonment for any other offence, unless that person has obtained a pardon, served the sentence, or otherwise suffered the penalty imposed on the person
- a member of Parliament
- a person disqualified under another Act.