



13 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 3 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information in regard to the Work Confidence Programme and the Employment Workshops:

- 1. Could you tell me a bit about what they [Employment Workshops] entail and if they [employment workshops] are suitable for someone with a disability?*
- 2. What usually happens in these workshops and how many times do people go for?*
- 3. Also, what is usually taught there? And are these group or individual workshops?*
- 4. For the Mainstream Employment Programme, what supports are available besides financial assistance and connecting the individual to the employer?*

On 1 July 2021, the Ministry extended the time to respond to your request due to consultations necessary to make a decision. You were advised you would receive a response on or before 16 July 2021.

For clarity, I will respond to your questions in turn.

- 1. Could you tell me a bit about what they [Work Confidence Programmes and Employment Workshops] entail and if they are suitable for someone with a disability?*
- 2. What usually happens in these workshops and how many times do people go for?*
- 3. Also, what is usually taught there? And are these group or individual workshops?*

Work confidence programmes are designed to give clients practical skills and ideas to help boost confidence as they go about finding work.

Clients receive training on how to rediscover skills and strong points, set goals, choose what they would like to do, prepare and update their CV, approach possible employers and develop interview and telephone skills.

Employment Workshops are group-based workshops to help job seekers with their job searching in a supported and structured environment. These Employment Workshops differ region to region and focus on the specific needs of their job seekers.

Job Seekers are required to attend the workshops once a week for a one-hour period. A trained facilitator talks to modular based topics, such as CV preparation, and then helps the group with self-directed job search activities.

Employment Workshops can cover topics such as self-directed job search support, CV preparation, redundancy support, and job interview preparation. These workshops are for the general job seeker and can also support people with disabilities.

More information about Work Confidence Programmes and Employment Workshops can be found on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/training-and-work-experience/work-confidence-programmes.html.

4. *For the Mainstream Employment Programme, what supports are available besides financial assistance and connecting the individual to the employer?*

The Mainstream Employment Programme provides a package of wage and training subsidies and other support to help people with significant disabilities get work and to enable them to gain sustainable employment.

Clients are placed in created or adapted jobs, for up to one year, to assist them to gain the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to gain employment on merit in the future or retain an adapted permanent position. The positions are tailored to the skills and abilities of the participant and the needs of the employer.

People with a disability and employers, with the help of supported employment agents (or other agencies), identify the support that is needed for the person to build their skills and do the job.

The expected outcome of the programme is that each participant will gain or retain sustainable employment either with the employer or with an alternative employer during or at the end of the placement.

Alongside financial support, where the Ministry will pay a participants employer 80% of their wages for the first six months of the programme and 50% of their wages for the last six months of the programme, the Ministry will also help with funding for external training, specialized equipment and ongoing support to participants and their supervisors.

More information about what support is available through the Mainstream Employment Programme can be found on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/health-and-disability-job-support/mainstream-employment-programme.html.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public.

The Ministry will do this by publishing this response on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response to your request with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your request for information regarding Work Confidence Programme and the Employment Workshops with us you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**