

16 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2026 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting information about the appointment process for the Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry recruited for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role publicly through the New Zealand Herald, the Seek website, jobs.govt.nz, and the Ministry's Job Platform.

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which provides the following resources:

- The New Zealand Herald Public Notices, dated 13 April 2026.
- A copy of the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* job advertisement as it appeared on other platforms.¹

Some information has been withheld as it is out of scope of your request.

You have asked about the pay rates for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The current rates are:

- \$131.26 for 0 to 3 hours (gross - including 3 hours)
- \$262.52 for more than 3 hours (gross)

The Ministry has received 74 applications for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The part of your request that asks for how many were received from other nominating agencies is refused under section 18(e) as the information does not exist.

As at 19 May 2026, there were 23 shortlisted applicants for the role, and no interviews had taken place at that time. Please get in touch with us if you are seeking an update on the number of interviews and we will consider your request.

You have asked how many vacancies the Ministry is looking to fill for this round for the *Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region* role. The number of appointments will be based on regional demand. For example, as at 18 April 2024, there were 57 Community Representatives spread throughout

¹ Please note that there were some slight differences between the copy used on the Ministry platform, the jobs.govt.nz website, and the newspaper publications. The variations were mainly due to word count constraints and format requirements for print media, which meant that the Ministry had to adapt the advertisement to fit within those specific limitations.

the Ministry's 11 Service Delivery regions. To ensure adequate cover, each region has a pool of representatives that can be called upon to help ensure the Benefit Review Committee can consider reviews in a timely manner. As at 19 May 2026, there are 73 Community Representatives.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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

pp.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Family notices

To place your Family Notice call
0800 HERALD (0800 437 253)
or visit www.nzherald.co.nz/bookyourad



Out of scope

Public notices

Public Notice

On behalf of the Minister for Social Development and Employment, the Ministry of Social Development is seeking community focused people for the role of Community Representative on the local Benefits Review Committee for the Auckland Region.

The Benefits Review Committee provides an informal setting for clients to review decisions made by the Ministry of Social Development about their benefit entitlement.

As a Community Representative you will bring a community perspective to the decision-making process of the Benefits Review Committee (BRC) and assist in reviewing applications in accordance with relevant legislation. Your responsibilities will include reading and considering review reports, attend hearings arranged for the client and the Ministry Presenter to make representations to the BRC, evaluating decisions on a case-by-case basis, chairing BRC hearings and writing and submitting the BRC report to the Ministry.

Hearings are scheduled to be held at least fortnightly, however as there is a pool of Community Representatives in each region, individual Community Representatives may not be required to sit on every hearing.

In this role you will need to be able to relate to a range of people within the wider community, have good community experience and knowledge, and respect the views, beliefs and cultural perspectives of others.

This is a Ministerial appointment. Names of successful candidates will be forwarded for consideration by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

If you are interested in this role, please apply online at <https://jobs.msd.govt.nz/>

Applications close: Sunday, 19 April 2026.



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Job Title: Committee Fee Members, Benefit Review Committee - Auckland Region

About us

The Ministry of Social Development is a people-centred organisation. We're in communities across the motu, working with partners to help New Zealanders be safe, strong and independent.

We provide social policy and advice to government and assistance, including income, employment and housing support to people of all ages, families, whānau and communities.

As a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner we are committed to supporting and enabling Māori, whānau, hapū, Iwi and communities to realise their own potential and aspirations.

Our people are as diverse as the communities we serve. We care about the wellbeing and success of our people and provide a supportive and inclusive working environment where people can thrive and be who they are.

Ministry of Social Development

Public Notice

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Position Description | He Whakaahuatanga Tūnga:

Please copy and paste the position description into your browser: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/hr/documents/recruiting-files/brc-community-representative-role-description.doc>

How to Apply | Me pēhea te tuku tono

To apply, click the 'Apply Now' button to upload your CV, cover letter and complete the online application form.

Note: Your cover letter will be a key part of our assessment process, so please highlight how your experience relates to the key responsibilities listed in the position description.

All applications must be made online. If this is not possible or if you have any queries, please contact the Manager Regional Business - Lafaele on lafaele.baice001@msd.govt.nz

Internal MSD Employees – please apply through your myHR portal at work. This will ensure that your myHR employee profile is visible as internal candidate.

Closing date: Sunday 19 April 2026