# Disability Support Services and Ministry of Social Development, Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

# Senior Commercial Specialist

## Our purpose

**Manaaki tangata, Manaaki whānau**

We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent

## Our commitment to Māori

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 strategic direction



## Our Values



## Working in the Public Service

Ka mahitahi mātou o te ratonga tūmatanui kia hei painga mō ngā tāngata o Aotearoa i āianei, ā, hei ngā rā ki tua hoki. He kawenga tino whaitake tā mātou hei tautoko i te Karauna i runga i āna hononga ki a ngāi Māori i raro i te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ka tautoko mātou i te kāwanatanga manapori. Ka whakakotahingia mātou e te wairua whakarato ki ō mātou hapori, ā, e arahina ana mātou e ngā mātāpono me ngā tikanga matua o te ratonga tūmatanui i roto i ā mātou mahi.

In the public service we work collectively to make a meaningful difference for New Zealanders now and in the future. We have an important role in supporting the Crown in its relationships with Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.  We support democratic government. We are unified by a spirit of service to our communities and guided by the core principles and values of the public service in our work.

## The outcomes we want to achieve

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| New Zealanders get the support they require | New Zealanders are resilient and live in inclusive and supportive communities | New Zealanders participate positively in society and reach their potential |

## We carry out a broad range of responsibilities and functions including

* Employment, income support and superannuation
* Community partnerships, programmes and campaigns
* Advocacy for seniors, disabled people and youth
* Public Housing assistance and emergency housing
* Resolving claims of abuse and neglect in state care
* Student allowances and loans

## **He whakataukī\***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unuhia te rito o te harakeke  Kei hea te kōmako e kō?  Whakatairangitia, rere ki uta, rere ki tai;  Ui mai ki ahau,  He aha te mea nui o te ao?  Māku e kī atu,  He tangata, he tangata, he tangata\* | If you remove the central shoot of the flaxbush  Where will the bellbird find rest?  Will it fly inland, fly out to sea, or fly aimlessly;  If you were to ask me,  What is the most important thing in the world?  I will tell you,  It is people, it is people, it is people |

\* We would like to acknowledge Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri Trust for their permission to use this whakataukī

## Position detail

### Overview of position

### The Senior Commercial Specialist provides commercial expertise, advice, support and leadership across commissioning to manage high value, high risk commercial and procurement processes. The Senior Commercial Specialist also leads and manages project teams from the development through to the delivery of sourcing strategies, procurement planning and sourcing through to contract delivery and on-going monitoring and management. This involves negotiating outcomes and managing suppliers and critical suppliers. This role mentors others to share best practice and experience across commissioning.

### Location

Various

### Reports to

Manager Commercial Outcomes

## Key responsibilities

Sourcing Strategies

* Provide technical expertise to lead and manage high value, high risk sourcing processes for a range of services in a collaborative manner.
* Recommends and manages the most appropriate and efficient method for strategic sourcing initiatives/agreements for DSS from analysis of spend, peoples needs and the marketplace DSS operate in
* Engage with underrepresented providers to understand barriers to entry, particularly Māori and Pacific communities
* Maintaining all relevant procurement standards relating to transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealings, accountability, due process and non-discrimination.

Negotiation

* Plan and execute negotiation strategies that will meet the overall goals and ensure achievement of DSS outcomes and strategy.
* Negotiates with vendors/contractors to obtain maximum benefit to DSS and disabled people from third party spend
* Decides appropriate resolution to problems that may arise during commercial processes.

Supplier Relationships

* Develop strong relationships with relevant key strategic suppliers
* Utilise supplier relationships to gather market intelligence to apply to business planning and advice
* Support the effective management of identified contracts/suppliers
* Provide feedback/review channel for suppliers.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

* Manage relationships at all levels including, those external to the organisation
* Manage relationships between DSS Commissioning and other groups in the wider Ministry to ensure collaboration of activities delivers high quality outcomes.
* Engage with stakeholders with a focus on outcomes and public value while supporting overall delivery of DSS objectives and direction.
* Become a trusted advisor to stakeholders.

**Delivery**

* Plan commercial projects, ensuring all reporting requirements are met
* Develop and manage processes that anticipate, manage, mitigate and monitor the risks associated with providing commercial services
* Collaborate with management and staff across DSS and MSD regarding changes to existing or new commercial management practices
* Ensure the highest standards of probity and ethics in the commercial practice.

## Embedding te ao Māori

* Embedding Te Ao Māori (te reo Māori, tikanga, kawa, Te Tiriti o Waitangi) into the way we do things at MSD.
* Building more experience, knowledge, skills and capabilities to confidently engage with whānau, hapū and iwi.

## Health, safety and security

* Understand and implement your Health, Safety and Security (HSS) accountabilities as outlined in the HSS Accountability Framework.
* Ensure you understand, follow and implement all Health, Safety and Security and wellbeing policies and procedures.

## Emergency management and business continuity

* Remain familiar with the relevant provisions of the Emergency Management and Business Continuity Plans that impact your business group/team.
* Participate in periodic training, reviews and tests of the established Business Continuity Plans and operating procedures.

## Know-how

* Extensive commercial procurement experience or commercial procurement management experience
* A minimum of a bachelor’s degree or relevant technical qualification such as MCIPS is required
* Member of or studying towards becoming a Member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (MCIPS) is desirable
* Proven senior experience in leading complex/high value procurement or commercial projects
* Strong understanding of the machinery of government particularly in relation to commercial, contracting, and procurement practices.
* Proven senior experience and knowledge in sourcing strategies and category management within a large complex organisation
* Proven senior experience in leading/coaching others to develop procurement experience
* A comprehensive understanding of the supply chain and procurement lifecycle and how to develop strategies to create leverage opportunities at each stage
* Extensive experience in complex, high value, multi-faceted RFX processes
* Strong knowledge of strategic sourcing methodologies, tools, techniques – including technology trends, market rates and cost drivers
* Extensive negotiation experience, including experience gained through leading complex, high risk negotiations, ideally in the public service
* Understanding and knowledge of sourcing internationally
* Experience in drafting legal documents, contractual negotiations, and SLA development and implementation.

## Attributes

* Excellent relationship management skills – able to establish, build and maintain effective working relationships at all levels of an organisation.
* Strong interpersonal skills – - comfortable interacting with senior management, able to adapt these to meet audience, able to build trust and demonstrate advocacy,
* Strong decision making skills – able to analyse information from a variety of sources, make sound judgements and assumptions based on fact
* Excellent negotiation skills – able to influence others to see own point of view, gains agreement from multiple parties, finds compromise when necessary
* Target driven and commitment to attainment of goals
* Excellent communication skills at a senior organisational level.
* Strong customer service focus– strong client focus, ability to anticipate and understand client business needs, using this information to deliver an effective service, aims to exceed expectations
* Excellent organisational skills – able to plan work, prioritise and work in a systemised way to meet competing deadlines without compromising quality
* Influencer and strong relationship builder – able to influence and persuade stakeholders - change agent willing and able to lead efforts to develop and implement strategic sourcing initiatives

## Key relationships

### Internal

* GM Commissioning & Funding
* Director Procurement & Commercial
* DSS Contracts and Funding
* DSS Commissioning
* People and Capability Lead
* MSD Procurement and Commercial Services team
* MSD Business Managers
* Legal Services Group
* Finance Group
* Financial Analysts

### External

* Third party contractors and suppliers
* Counterparts at other Public Sector Agencies
* Audit NZ and external auditors
* External legal advisors
* NZ Government Procurement Functional Leadership (MBIE)
* Various Centres of Excellence

## Other

### Delegations

* Financial – No
* Human Resources - No

### Direct reports - No

### Security clearance - No

### Children’s worker - No

Limited adhoc travel may be required

**Position Description Updated:** July 2025