

April Progress report

This report provides an update on the progress of ideas emerging from the Job Summit, as well as an update on conditions in the labour market.

Action Summary

Maintaining labour market connections and skills:

- Introduced the 9 day fortnight Job Support Scheme, initially for firms with more than 100 employees. Extended scheme to medium-sized firms with between 50 and 100 employees. As at the end of April, 5 firms have used this arrangement with a total of 133 jobs retained. Many more companies have made inquiries about the scheme.
- Extended the time frame for trainees to find work while still being eligible for government training subsidies. If trainees are made redundant, they will now remain 'active' for funding purposes for 12 weeks instead of the previous six weeks.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to tackle common issues around unemployment.

Stimulating demand for goods and services in New Zealand:

- Increased funding for tourism promotion in Australia
- Plans being developed for a national cycleway

Ensuring financial markets function well:

- Fees reviewed and reduced for the wholesale funding guarantee

Ongoing Progress

There are many other ideas from the Job Summit which are being investigated by various Ministers. Over the next month final decisions will be made on whether to proceed with some of these ideas, and announcements will be made in due course.