

# Meeting Briefing

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora

## Ministerial Employment Relations Forum Meeting

<b>Due to MO:</b>	26 March 2025	<b>Reference</b>	HNZ00080654
<b>To:</b>	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
<b>From:</b>	Fiona McCarthy, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer Laila Harré, Head of Industrial Workplace Relations & Remuneration		
<b>Copy to:</b>	n/a		
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Priority</b>	Routine
<b>Consulted</b>	n/a		

### Contact for further discussion

Name	Position	Phone	1st contact
Fiona McCarthy	Interim Chief Human Resources Officer	S9(2)(a)	x
Laila Harré	Head of Industrial Workplace Relations & Remuneration	S9(2)(a)	

### Attachments

Appendix 1: s 9(2)(j)

## About the meeting

<b>Purpose</b>	You are attending the Ministerial Employment Relations Forum Meeting to provide an update on Health NZ bargaining with respect to S9(2)(j)
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 27 March 2025
<b>Time</b>	3.30pm to 4.15pm
<b>Venue</b>	Beehive, 5.3L EW
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance</p> <p>Hon Judith Collins KC, Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service (Chair)</p> <p>Hon Brooke van Velden, Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety</p> <p>Hon Chris Bishop, Associate Minister of Finance</p> <p>Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister for Women</p> <p>Hon Shane Jones, Associate Minister of Finance</p> <p>Sir Brian Roche, Public Service Commissioner</p> <p>Officials as required</p>
<b>Health New Zealand   Te Whatu Ora officials</b>	Fiona McCarthy, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer
<b>Media</b>	No media are expected

## Purpose

1. This briefing provides background information on the Ministerial Employment Relations Forum (MERF) and explains and updates the material provided by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) to the MERF secretariat relating to S9(2)(j)
2. Appendix 1 provides background on Health NZ's recent and current S9(2)(j)

## Background and context

3. MERF was first convened in August 2024 and replaced the MOGSSER (Ministerial Oversight Group on State Sector Employment Relations) meetings under the previous government.
4. MERF was established to support Ministers to have timely oversight of the public sector employment relations environment, including bargaining, pay equity, workforce size and remuneration strategies. It acts as a steering group for these matters across the public

sector, and as such is not a decision-making body. The group meets about six-weekly, and there have been three MERF meetings so far, with the most recent taking place in November 2024.

5. The Public Services Commission (PSC) Employment Relations team has secretariat responsibility for MERF, meaning they are responsible for the development and coordination of the meeting's agenda and papers. Papers are co-authored with the Treasury.
6. There is a group of core ministers that attend MERF, and it is chaired by the Minister for the Public Service. The Public Service Commissioner attends, as do key officials from the PSC, Alex Chadwick (Workforce DCE), Charlie Busby (ER Manager) and Sarah Borrell (Workforce Chief Adviser). Officials from the Treasury and DPMC also attend. Ministers and agency officials outside of this core group will be invited to attend if they have a relevant item on the agenda.
7. MERF's core ministerial membership is:
  - Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance
  - Hon Judith Collins KC, Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service (Chair)
  - Hon Brooke van Velden, Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
  - Hon Chris Bishop, Associate Minister of Finance
  - Hon Nicola Grigg, Minister for Women
  - Hon Shane Jones, Associate Minister of Finance

S9(2)(j)

### **Matters for discussion**

S9(2)(j)

S9(2)(j)

Proactively Released

S9(2)(j)

Proactively Released

## Appendix 1: S9(2)(j)

S9(2)(j)

Proactively Released

S9(2)(j)

Proactively Released