



TEN KEY ACTIONS ON JOBS

Surely in these tough economic times the Government should be trying to keep as many people as possible in work? Without a job, workers stop spending money on other goods and services, which causes more job losses as shops and businesses see their earnings drop.

But instead of doing everything it can to save and protect jobs, the Government has actually axed the jobs of more than 1,400 of their own public sector employees since being elected in November 2008!

So not only is the Government creating more unemployed workers, it is also undermining the quality of public services that will be provided to you and me in vital areas such as health, education and state services.

Unions are calling on the Government to halt all further job cuts in the public sector and to support more programmes to save and create jobs across the entire economy.



NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
Te Kauae Kaimahi

Here are 10 things we think the Government needs to do to keep New Zealand working:

1. There should be full and frank consultation between employers and workers before redundancies are confirmed to make sure every option to protect jobs has been explored and communicated to employees.
2. Redundancy should be regarded as the action of last resort (not the first).
3. There needs to be more Government support for efforts to retain staff – for example:
 - increased levels of subsidies for Job Support Schemes (9-day fortnight), to ensure that these schemes are at least providing median wage levels to affected workers;
 - introduction of a training element to Job Support Schemes.
4. Stop public sector job cuts – Government action has gone way beyond ‘capping’ or reducing staff by natural attrition.
5. Action should be taken on the Public Advisory Group Report on Redundancy – particularly the introduction of statutory redundancy pay and notice periods. The Government should legislate to achieve this.
6. More assistance is urgently needed for those already made redundant – for example:
 - more flexibility on benefit entitlements and stand-down periods;
 - more Government investment in relocation and housing assistance;
 - subsidies for retraining and up-skilling initiatives;
 - expanding the range of tailored support schemes for redundant workers (e.g. CV assistance, careers advice, mentoring, training options).
7. The Government should strengthen the requirements around governmental procurement choices to give priority to New Zealand suppliers.
8. More urgency is needed on rapid job creation schemes – for example:
 - Task Force Green;
 - housing and home insulation;
 - new temporary employment schemes.
9. Unions should be assisted to play an ongoing role in large redundancy situations to support workers made redundant.
10. Assistance and job creation/retention initiatives need to be targeted at groups most adversely affected by the current recession – for example:
 - Maori
 - Pacific
 - Youth
 - Specific geographic areas hardest hit (e.g. Northland).