



## Office of Hon Paula Bennett

Minister for Social Development  
Minister of Youth Affairs

27 JUN 2012

Alex Harris  
[requests@fyi.org.nz](mailto:requests@fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your email of 17 May 2012 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How much are members of the Work and Income Board paid?*
- *Are those fees consistent with the Cabinet fees framework?*

The welfare reforms that the Prime Minister and I announced on 1 November 2011 will fundamentally change our benefit system; transforming it into a modern, active, work focused system that identifies and realises individuals' work capacity.

At the core of the new system, an investment approach will make the service delivery agency accountable for taking a long-term view, intervening early and providing more intensive support for groups and individuals who have the potential to work, but who would remain on benefits long-term without this extra support.

As you may be aware, on 15 May 2012 I announced the Work and Income Board members to oversee Work and Income performance, with particular focus on the design, implementation and ongoing delivery of the Government's investment approach to welfare.

The Work and Income Board will support the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development with the implementation and operation of the investment approach. The Board will also provide independent advice to myself, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of State Services regarding how well the Ministry is doing in achieving the results it expects from this approach.

The board members are:

- Ms Paula Rebstock (Chair)
- Dr Ian McPherson
- Professor Kathryn McPherson
- Mr Andrew Body
- Mr Reg Barrett
- Ms Debbie Packer

The Chair of the Board is to receive fees of \$58,500 per annum and the Board members are to receive fees of \$26,500 per annum.

These fees were determined under the fees framework process set out in Cabinet Office Circular CO (09) 05. It is important to note that the Work and Income Board is a unique body which does not easily fit into the standard categories specified in the Cabinet Fees Framework. Members have the skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the investment approach, including actuarial and financial skills, contracting and commissioning skills, and service delivery knowledge and experience.

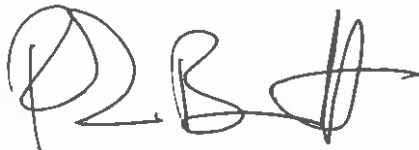
The responsibilities of the board members will be regular and ongoing and will not just be restricted to attending board meetings. For this reason they will be paid an annual rate, rather than a daily rate. This will provide value for money as the members are paid a fixed rate for overseeing the delivery of the welfare reforms.

Cabinet approved the fees to be treated as an exception to the Fees Framework and, as required by CO (09) 05, the Minister for State Services was consulted and supported the fees paid to the Board.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bennett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Paula Bennett  
Minister for Social Development