



28 May 2024

Kitty

[fyi-request-26684-93d102e1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26684-93d102e1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Kitty

Thank you for your email dated 9 May 2024 to Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment, regarding the Kōrero Mahi – Let's Talk Work seminar (Kōrero Mahi). Your queries were referred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for reply. I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive.

The aim of Kōrero Mahi is to support clients to understand and engage with the employment support offered by the Ministry. It is intended for clients with full-time work obligations, who are new to receiving a benefit and would otherwise have limited support in their job search.

Clients with a full medical deferral, due to a health condition or disability, are not required to attend Kōrero Mahi. Clients with a full medical deferral may be referred to attend Kōrero Mahi when their work obligations begin, at the end of the deferral period.

The Ministry will support any Jobseeker Work Ready (JSWR) clients with additional accessibility needs to participate in Kōrero Mahi.

Clients with fulltime work obligations would not be required to attend Kōrero Mahi if they:

- have been accepted into a programme/service or a contracted course
- have been added to a dedicated Case Management caseload
- have transferred from JSWR to a different benefit type or are no longer receiving a benefit
- may find it difficult to participate in large group activities.


The Ministry understands that unexpected or urgent events may prevent clients from attending the Kōrero Mahi seminar they are initially scheduled to attend. The Ministry is responsible for making the determination as to whether the reason for non-attendance at a session is good and sufficient. Good and sufficient reasons for not attending a scheduled session may include, but are not limited to:

- being temporarily medically unfit to attend (would need to provide a medical certificate)
- a death or illness in the immediate family
- inability to access transport on the day, due to unforeseen circumstances

- childcare arrangements falling through on the day of the seminar, due to unforeseen circumstances
- being dependent on the provision of Work and Income assistance to complete the activity, and that assistance was not provided
- an unexpected event occurring on the day of the seminar, such as providing care for a sick relative.

Thank you for writing.

Nāku noa, nā

*p.p.* 

Magnus O'Neill  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services