

Wage Subsidy scheme is extended out to continue supporting workers

The Government has announced that applications to their COVID-19 Wage Subsidy scheme will be extended for a further twelve weeks and have allowed a possible eight more weeks per employee of funding. The subsidy, which has so far paid out over \$10 billion to support jobs and businesses affected by impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, was originally rolled out as a measure to help businesses retain staff during lockdown.

What has become apparent as time has gone on is that businesses are still struggling, and despite New Zealand moving out of the strict Level 4 restrictions, there will still be significant impacts on many industries, especially tourism, hospitality and retail.

Applications, which open June 10, will be available to businesses that have suffered or expect to suffer a revenue loss of 50 per cent or more. All Employers wishing to receive the extended subsidy will have to fill out a new application, even if they have received the previous wage subsidy.

Applications can be made through the Ministry of Social Development's [website](#) and an employer cannot receive more than one COVID-19 subsidy at the same time for a single employee (this applies to the original Wage Subsidy, the Wage Subsidy Extension and the Leave Support Scheme).

Resources:

Targeted extension to the Wage Subsidy Scheme <<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/targeted-extension-wage-subsidy-scheme>> 14 May 2020

COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Extension <<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy-extension/index.html>>

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