

19 November 2009

Iain Rennie  
State Services Commissioner  
State Services Commission  
PO Box 329  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Rennie

I would like to raise with you my concern about an event being organised by Paul Quinn MP "in association with" Work and Income in Lower Hutt on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November (flyer and invite attached).

My concern is that the event appears to breach the public service code of conduct obligations around impartiality and the political neutrality guidelines produced by the State Services Commission. The code of conduct states when referring to impartiality that "*the State Sector must maintain the political neutrality required to enable us to work with current and future governments*". The notion of a government agency co-hosting an event with an MP from any particular political party seems to run counter to this principle.

The event also runs counter to the the guidelines around the duty of public servants to "*serve the government of the day, and not the political party represented in that government*" (Fact Sheet 2) and around "*agency resources being used for proper purposes*" (Fact Sheet 4). The guidelines make clear that agency resources should not be used for party political purposes. While it is no doubt desirable for members of the community to know about the programmes that are available, it is not appropriate for Mr Quinn to be hosting an event such as this, particularly "in association with" Work and Income.

If an event such as this were to be held the only person who might have a legitimate connection to it is the Minister of Social Development and Employment, and even in that case it is questionable if this kind of event needs a political sponsor.

I ask that you investigate the hosting of this event, and take the appropriate action to uphold the impartiality of the public service.

Yours sincerely



Grant Robertson  
MP for Wellington Central

cc Peter Hughes, Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development

encl.



## PAUL QUINN

National Member of Parliament

13 November 2009

Dear

### Work Opportunities for Youth

I, like many others, am deeply concerned about the effect the recent recession has had on job opportunities for our young people. The Government has launched two programmes which I hope will encourage businesses and community organisations to take on more staff.

**Job Ops** is designed to create 4000 new six-month work opportunities for young people in businesses over the next 15 months. As part of the initiative, we are asking businesses to work with young people to build their work skills, foster their confidence and, where appropriate, provide them with references for future work. In return, the Government will provide a \$5000 subsidy for each young person hired into an entry level position. Our focus is on businesses that are considering taking on a young employee, but are reluctant to do so in the current economic climate.

**Community Max** is designed to create 3000 new jobs in community programmes. As part of the initiative, we are inviting community groups, local authorities, iwi and Pacific groups, and other organisations to come to the Government with community projects. The Government will provide the minimum wage for 30 hours a week for up to 26 weeks, a training payment, and a supervisor for every four young people.

**Invitation:** I would like to offer you this opportunity to attend a briefing by Work and Income staff here in the Hutt at the end of November. We know your time is limited and so we will keep it short, with the emphasis on providing you with the information you need to come to a decision about whether or not one of these programmes is for you. Please see the invitation enclosed.

I do hope you can attend. I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

Paul Quinn MP

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Lower Hutt 5040 Call free 0800 NAT MPS 0800 628 677  
email paul.quinnmp@parliament.govt.nz

Paul Quinn MP  
National List MP based in Hutt South

in association with

Work and Income

invites you to a seminar on

## *Work Opportunities for Youth*

*Date:* Monday, 30 November 2009

*Time:* 9.45am-11.15am

*Venue:* Crossroads  
Corner Kings Crescent and Cornwall Street  
Lower Hutt

*RSVP:* Acceptances only please for catering purposes to:  
Lana Henderson by Friday 20 November 2009  
Ph: (04) 568 7210  
Email: [lane.henderson@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:lane.henderson@parliament.govt.nz)

