



SAME WORK. SAME PAY.

FAQ for Media

What's the campaign about?

The Same Work Same Pay campaign is being launched to oppose the Government's Minimum Wage (Starting Out Wage) Amendment Bill, which will introduce a lower minimum wage for 16 – 19 year olds.

Why do we oppose the Starting Out Wage policy?

Paying people a lower minimum wage because of their age is fundamentally unfair. New Zealand has a minimum wage for a reason. All New Zealand workers should have the same *minimum wage* and be paid on the basis of the work they do and the skills they have.

This policy is being proposed off the back of high levels of youth unemployment.

We are concerned that 85,000 young New Zealanders are out of work, education and training and are struggling to find an opportunity to succeed.

Introducing a cut-price minimum wage will not solve this problem.

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This policy may lead to some jobs being opened up for young people on youth rates, but this will be at the expense of other young and older workers who will be paid the adult minimum wage.

We are calling for the Government to take an *investment* approach to the issue of youth unemployment by investing in job schemes, apprenticeships (particularly in Christchurch), increased support for youth employment support for all young people, and easier access to higher education.

We have attached more detailed commentary on the economic issues relating to the Starting Out Wage.

What's in store for the campaign?

The campaign was kicked off online with a focus on maximising submissions to the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee.

The grassroots campaign is being launched on the steps of Parliament at 12pm on Tuesday 27th November.

The campaign will mobilise young and old across New Zealand to fight against youth rates and put pressure on the Government to create real opportunities for young New Zealanders.

Media contact:

The campaign spokesperson is James Sleep who is based in Wellington.

James can be contacted on 027 243 1239/021 9111 49 or emailed james.sleep@gmail.com

You can Tweet James using the Twitter handle: @jamesleep

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