

Dear Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment,

My name is Amanda Riddell, and I am a freelance writer/editor currently relying on the Jobseeker benefit to supplement my income. I support the Income Insurance Scheme in principle, but I believe that improving the welfare system should be a higher priority for the Government at this time.

The recommendations of the expert advisory group in the last term regarding welfare reform in Aotearoa-New Zealand have been largely ignored, and the current benefit increases are more like PR exercises than the sweeping reforms that were recommended. This, along with other facets of the Covid-19 response, is widening the gap between rich and poor (and disproportionately disadvantaging Māori and Pasifika communities).

If this scheme is implemented, it would be good if any savings in the welfare system from the introduction of NZIS could stay in the welfare system and be used to help pull families out of poverty.

Yours Sincerely,
Amanda Riddell

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