



# REGIONAL SKILLS LEADERSHIP GROUPS.

Regional Skills Leadership Groups identify and support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in our regions and cities.

## About Regional Skills Leadership Groups

The 15 Regional Skills Leadership Groups (RSLGs) are independent advisory groups whose members are regional leaders. RSLGs are driving a more coordinated approach to regional workforce planning.

RSLGs are working with their regional communities to develop a shared understanding of the local labour market and to identify priorities for skills and workforce development. This will support:

- › businesses thinking about expanding operations
- › school leavers deciding what to study
- › people looking to retrain or upskill
- › schools and education providers considering which courses to run and how to support students into work.

RSLGs are part of a joined-up approach to workforce planning that brings regional partners together to share information on labour demand and supply, shape local and regional workforce and skills responses, and influence regional and national labour market settings as needed.

The groups prepare Regional Workforce Plans that identify the types of jobs regions will be creating, the skills needed for these jobs and the most effective ways to meet these workforce needs, both regionally and nationally.

RSLGs groups are a core element of the reform of vocational education, alongside Te Pūkenga and Workforce Development Councils, and are part of a suite of new employment system initiatives, including the national Employment Strategy and Employment Action Plans.

## Outcomes for the regions

### RSLGs will help to achieve:

- › A more coordinated labour market view that takes account of Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles, and equity for priority groups.
- › Current and future workforce needs for our regions and cities are accessible and understood.
- › Our education, welfare and immigration agencies are better connected through regional labour market planning and delivery, reflecting partnership, equity and Kaupapa Māori.





- › Regional education, training and upskilling is responsive to the needs of learners and employers at all stages.
- › Greater ease for businesses to employ New Zealanders with the skills required for current and future jobs.
- › All skills and labour market activities are connected, and informed by the same data and evidence.

## Group membership

Each regional group is independent and has 12-15 members including two co-chairs, with one co-chair selected by iwi/hāpū/Māori. Members include regional leaders, iwi/hāpū/Māori and trade union leaders, local government and economic development agencies, community groups, skills training institutions and government representatives.

## Appointments

Co-chairs are appointed by Cabinet, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

## Support for RSLGs

RSLGs are supported by a regional and national team of analysts, advisors and workforce specialists at MBIE.

## Regional coverage

There are 15 RSLGs across the country and their regions broadly link with regional council areas. They are:

- › [Te Purunga ki Te Raki \(Taitokerau\)](#)
- › [Tāmaki Makaurau](#)
- › [Waikato](#)
- › [Bay of Plenty](#)
- › [Tairāwhiti](#)
- › [Hawke's Bay](#)
- › [Taranaki](#)
- › [Manawatū-Whanganui](#)
- › [Wellington](#)
- › [Marlborough](#)
- › [Nelson-Tasman](#)
- › [Te Tai o Poutini West Coast](#)
- › [Canterbury](#)
- › [Otago](#)
- › [Southland Murihiku](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What responsibilities do the groups have?

RSLGs are locally based and regionally led independent advisory groups. They bring regional partners together to share information on demand and supply, shape local and regional workforce and skills responses, and influence regional and national labour market settings as needed.

The groups develop Regional Workforce Plans that set out aspirations, priorities and actions for current and future workforce and skills development in each. The plans will be refreshed annually and are on MBIE's website.

### How will regions use Regional Workforce Plans?

Regional Workforce Plans provide a common understanding of labour market and skills priorities. They will help to focus regional workforce actions around priority sectors and population groups and the challenges and issues preventing regions from meeting their potential.

Collaboration and information sharing will be a big part of achieving the outcomes RSLGs have identified. The plans contain actions regional partners will work on together and with RSLGs to start fixing issues and making the most of opportunities.

### How will government agencies use the Regional Workforce Plans?

Education, welfare and immigration agencies, along with other government departments looking at workforce issues, will use Regional Workforce Plans to understand future regional workforce needs.

### How will RSLGs work with the Workforce Development Councils?

RSLGs and Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) carry out different, complementary functions within the vocational education system. RSLGs are the regional voice on skills development and the six WDCs are the industry voice on skills development. RSLGs are working with WDCs so the industry-specific training they are shaping also reflects regional skills and workforce priorities.

## Contact us

Please visit [www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg) or email [rslg@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:rslg@mbie.govt.nz).

Contact details for each RSLG, the 15 Regional Workforce Plans and a map of the area each RSLG covers are also available at [www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg).