



# REGIONAL SKILLS LEADERSHIP GROUPS.

Fifteen Regional Skills Leadership Groups have been created to identify and support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in our regions and cities

## About Regional Skills Leadership Groups

There are currently a number of decision-makers in our regional labour market system. They include:

- › business owners thinking about expanding operations;
- › economic development agencies and those planning major developments;
- › school leavers deciding what to study;
- › people looking to re-train or upskill;
- › and schools, tertiary institutions and vocational training establishments thinking about which courses to run and how best to support their students into employment opportunities.

The decisions made by these groups are often based on different data and analysis, leading to unsatisfactory outcomes for both the workforce and the region as a whole.

To remedy this, the Government has established 15 Regional Skills Leadership Groups (RSLGs). They identify and support better ways to meet future skills and workforce needs in their regions, both now and in the future, and advise on actions to address these.

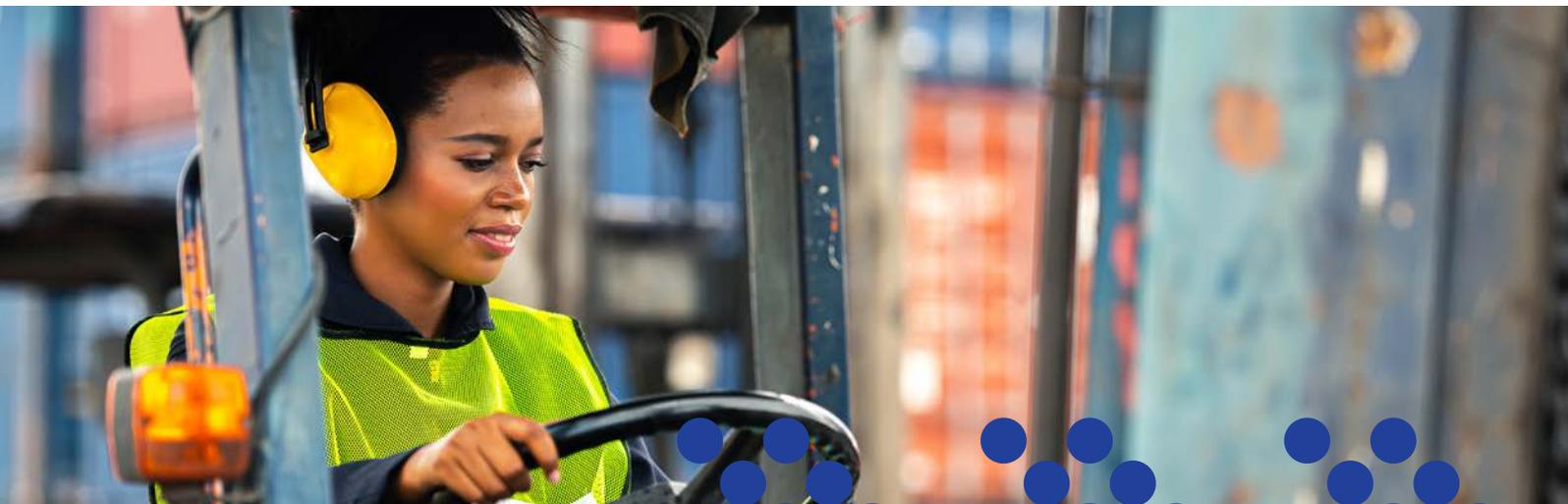
RSLGs are responsible for developing Regional Workforce Plans which will identify jobs that regions will be creating, the skills needed for these jobs

and the most effective ways to maximise the ability to meet these workforce needs, both regionally and nationally. This will help create a joined-up, regionally-led approach to labour market planning which will provide a clear view on how we can better meet the differing skills needs across the country.

## Outcomes for the regions

**This is what RSLGs will help 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.





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## Group membership

Each regional group is independent and has 12-15 members, including two co-chairs. Members include regional leaders, iwi/Māori and trade union leaders, local government and economic development agencies, community groups, skills training institutions and government representatives who contribute their knowledge, diverse perspectives and local expertise about their region's labour market.

## Appointments

The co-chairs of each group are appointed by Cabinet, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE).

## Support for RSLGs

RSLGs are supported by a regional and national team of analysts, advisors and workforce specialists at MBIE. This was agreed as part of Budget 2020.

## Regional coverage

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

- › [Te Purunga ki Te Raki \(Tai Tokerau\)](#)
- › [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](#)

Some regions also have sub-regions with differing labour market considerations. RSLGs may recognise this in their workforce plans or convene sub-committees or advisory groups to ensure a broad range of voices and perspectives are heard.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

RSLGs and Workforce Development Councils carry out different, yet complementary functions within the vocational education system. RSLGs identify skills needs to be used by both regional and national decision-makers, including education, immigration and employment support. As the voice of industry, Workforce Development Councils primarily work with industries and employers in their sectors to identify skills needs, developing qualifications and training pipelines to help meet those needs.

### What responsibilities do the groups have?

RSLGs are independent advisory groups which are locally based and regionally led.

They are developing Regional Workforce Plans for use by employers, school leavers, training providers, industry bodies and government agencies to ensure the skills that regions need are developed and readily available. The first iteration of the plans are expected to be delivered by the end of June 2022.

The groups inform, coordinate and create links with local initiatives that impact their region's workforce supply.

### How will regions use the Regional Workforce Plans?

Regional Workforce Plans will help support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in our regions and cities.

We know that regional issues are best addressed by regional solutions. In collaboration with local government, Regional Workforce Plans will build a shared vision for the region's labour market, identify opportunities and challenges, and influence local decision-making to help drive change.

By leveraging regional connections and expertise in partnership with iwi/Māori, RSLGs can help balance the demand and supply sides of the labour market to ensure the regions have the right skills and workforce planning to benefit from local economic opportunities.

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

Our education, welfare and immigration agencies, along with other government departments looking at workforce issues, will use the reports of RSLGs to understand future workforce needs.

The Tertiary Education Commission will take the RSLGs' Regional Workforce Plans into account when making investment decisions.

Regional Workforce Plans will also be used to inform the Ministry of Social Development in targeting employment support and training, and MBIE advice on settings relating to access to migrant labour.

### Will there be the opportunity for public consultation in the development of the Regional Workforce Plans?

RSLGs will be consulting across their regions during the development of the Regional Workforce Plans, and then again once completed.

## Contact us

For more information and to contact the RSLG Secretariat, please visit [www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/rslg) or email [rslg@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:rslg@mbie.govt.nz).

To contact your local RSLG, email [\[regionname\]RSLG@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:[regionname]RSLG@mbie.govt.nz) (e.g. [TaiTokerauRSLG@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:TaiTokerauRSLG@mbie.govt.nz))