

## TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



**Mental health concerns continue to be the primary issue for many, including employers and workers.** The sense of “languishing” and uncertainty still continues to have an affect across the board on people’s wellbeing.

**There is much uncertainty among employers regarding mandatory requirements to vaccinate staff, and if they should apply this to their worksite.** Many employers are unsure how they will manage COVID-19 vaccination status among their own workers and the risk of losing staff who choose not to be vaccinated. Concern is growing about the flow-on effects if they need to remove staff from ‘client’ facing roles, and how they would fill vacancies in the already tight labour market.

**Concern is growing in the Hospitality and events sectors around the ability of venues to check vaccination passports.** Employers are busily working to identify how they will maintain the safety of their staff, while managing the longer wait times the ‘clients’ will face in order to access their site (along with any behavioural problems that may arise with turning people away).

**Employers are seeking greater guidance and information on these key questions,** along with reassurance that Police assistance will be available when disruption occurs.

## TRENDS AT A GLANCE



**11.9% / 300** the increase in filled jobs for youth ages 15-19 years, between September 2020 – September 2021.



**-12.0% / - 450** the decrease in the number of Jobseeker benefit recipients, between October 2020 - October 2021.



**34** the increase in the total number of Registered Nurses and Personal Care Assistants, between November 2020 – November 2021.

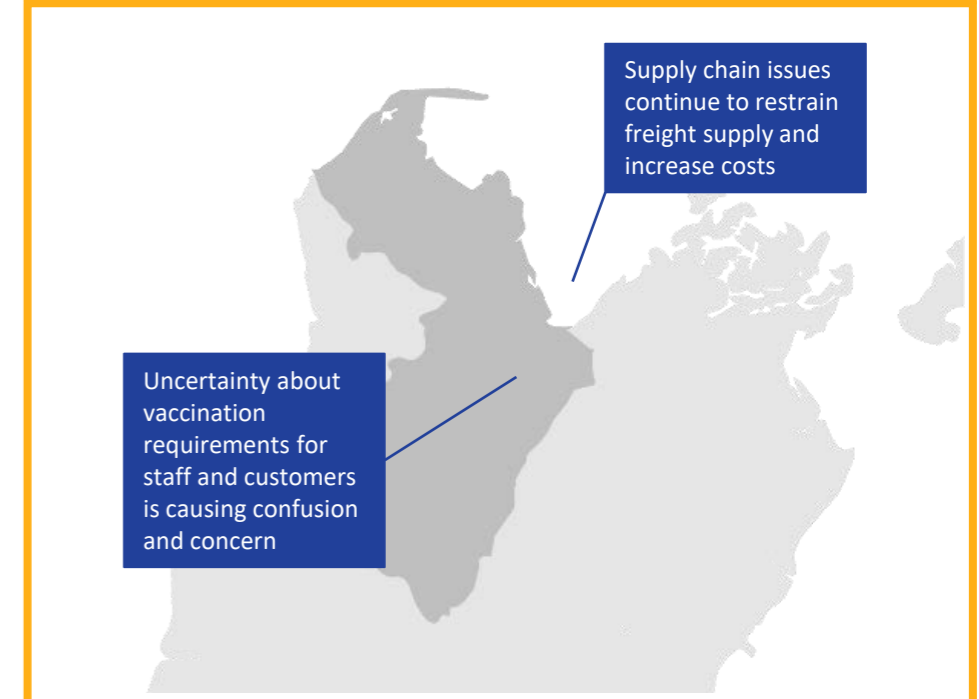
## TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- Employers are increasing their efforts to look after the well-being of staff.** They continue to be concerned about losing staff, particularly those who chose not to be vaccinated, and are doing all they can to keep them employed.
- Recent research by the Nelson Regional Development Agency has shown strong business resilience,** when looking at the numbers of new and closed businesses, especially in the Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) group.
- The current consultation on the Te Pūkenga Operating Model gives the RSLG opportunity to contribute to recommendations.** This will ensure a strong regional perspective and connection is made in the final model structures, functions and curriculum. The RSLG will be providing feedback on to Te Pūkenga on these recommendations.
- Export markets for aquaculture products are looking positive,** although freight logistics are still a concern. Small delays in getting product to the ports can result in long delays while waiting for the next departure. This can put pressure on any future business dealings and contracts.

## TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- Employers are becoming more concerned about their ability to manage the increasing levels of intolerance around vaccinations.** It is causing worries for employers who fear loss of staff, but also loss of customers who choose not to come to their businesses. This is especially noted in the hospitality sector, and the effects this drop in patronage may have on their long-term viability.
- The Health sector is facing growing fears of COVID-19 appearing in the region, and their ability to manage with the potential influx of patients.** The main issues causing concern are regarding their ability to accommodate the possible number of cases, but also to effectively and safely isolate cases in order to protect the rest of their community.
- Supply chain issues continue to effect businesses.** Increasing costs, extended delays, and the risk of not being able to meet customer demand in offshore markets are combining to create high levels of stress. These issues are being compounded with inflation of wage costs, particularly in the aquaculture sector.
- Many young people are not returning to school after the recent lockdowns.** Although some are going into work across a range of trades and sectors, and this will help to alleviate some of the labour shortages in the region, it will be important to ensure that they don’t miss out on opportunities for work-based learning delivery.

## THE NELSON-TASMAN REGION



## OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Identifying key stakeholders and contacts
- Consulting on the draft Regional Workforce Plan Vision and Focus Areas