PAY TRANSPARENCY

Future of Work Tripartite Forum

National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women

Key information

- Gender and ethnic pay gaps economically disadvantage women, Māori, Pacific people and people from other ethnic communities.
- In NZ, a lack of pay transparency is widespread and embedded in labour market practices and norms because employers and employees treat pay as private.
- Pay transparency is part of a suite of initiatives that can help reduce gender and ethnic pay gaps, and it has several benefits for both employers and employees.
- NACEW is the advisory group for pay transparency and is engaging with its partners and key groups to hear a range of views on what pay transparency looks like in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- This advice will inform and guide the right balance between workability and effectiveness, and fairness and practicality.

What is pay transparency?

Pay transparency refers to a range of actions to make pay information more visible. It can include actions like disclosing anonymous remuneration at a systematic, organisation-wide level and identifying, reporting on and addressing gender and ethnic pay gaps.

A *lack* of pay transparency can:

- 1. hide discriminatory pay practices and pay disparities between genders and ethnicities
- 2. exacerbate gender and ethnic pay gaps in the workplace
- 3. lead to labour market inefficiencies
- 4. disincentivise employers to proactively investigate pay issues and address them
- 5. prevent employees from identifying pay inequities and taking proactive steps to address them.

Pay transparency incentivises & supports

Employers

To:

- address/prevent current and future pay inequities through institutional change
- set fair pay rates that match their sector and industry
- create recruitment efficiencies where candidates are matched with the jobs that best suit their skills and experience
- demonstrate equitable and consistent pay allocation which results in employee productivity.

Employees

To;

- accurately and consistently compare their wages with others in the sector to determine whether they are paid appropriately for their current role
- make informed decisions on whether to ask for a raise, seek an opportunity elsewhere or remain in their job
- address pay inequities that commonly go unnoticed
- negotiate fair pay rates with their employers.

Things to think about & discuss

- 1. What firm size would be workable for pay transparency in Aotearoa's business sector?
- 2. How should we analyse and present information showing the differences in pay?
- 3. What gender and ethnic pay gap measures can employers already calculate from existing systems?
- 4. What is the best method to measure gaps that work for businesses?
- 5. What support will help businesses to implement pay transparency measures and reporting?

How do we;

- *Minimise administration and compliance costs?*
- Manage pay comparisons between colleagues?
- Retain employees while transitioning to pay parity?
- Standardise the measurement system for those businesses that elect to participate?