2008 Minimum Wage Submission Form

Name:
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Question 1: Summary of Submission:
Benefits of on the job training and being part of workforce for youth is extremely important

Job Market in rural areas limited

On a minimum wage cannot afford to relocate as cost of living i.e paying rent & utilities would absorb all of minimum wage

Need to ensure value of employment is recognised through appropriate wages, 1st year apprentice could earn more as a check out operator but we continue to have trade shortages, need to address imbalance for long term outcomes for benefit of all.

Question 2: The capacity for the unemployed and the low paid to obtain and remain in employment:

Need to ensure minimum wage accurately reflects cost of living to ensure being employed promotes economic prosperity.

Just because you are young your worth should not be devalued by minimum wage.

Shortages in trades and professions need to be addressed and making it attractive from a wage perspective is vitally important.

Relocation expenses for rural youth need to be considered or opportunities may not be taken up.

Question 3: Employment and competitiveness across the economy:

Rural economies limited and cost of travel is greater as no public transport therefore need to either relocate or spend considerable money on fuel is a burden for young people not evenly experienced in city.

Need to ensure we encourage young people to stay in rural and regional areas or provide attractive opportunities for them to return after study, too often this is not the case.
Question 4: The provision of a safety net for the low paid:

Safety net should have regard to real cost of living, including accommodation, travel and study, often need accomm for periods of study, need to see that we provide adequate opportunities for payment of apprentices and students to realise their potential rather than take an offer for a job which is below their skill level.

Question 5: The provision of minimum wages for junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply and employees with disabilities that ensure those employees are competitive in the labour market:

all of this needs review, young people need to feel valued and we need to provide a good environment in which they can work and learn.

Question 6: Issues arising from previous decision:

n/a

Question 7: Conclusion

I think there needs to be a review of minimum wages to accurately reflect cost of living