

Joint Update

Introduction of New Relieving Worker Positions

In the most recent collective negotiations between the NZFS and the NZPFU, and subsequent discussions, agreement was reached on the introduction of new Relieving Worker positions. These new positions are over and above core staffing levels, and are not assigned to a specific watch. Instead, they are able to work across different watches to replace absences. In recognition of the flexibility that this provides the NZFS, these workers will receive, in addition to all other payments detailed in the CEA, an allowance of \$60 per week (gross).

Full details of how these new positions will operate are contained in Clause 2.3.5.2 of the new CEA. The new CEA is available on the NZPFU website or on FireNet.

NZFS and the NZPFU are working together to manage the introduction of these new positions and have met several times to progress this work since the CEA was settled. The introduction of these new positions will be phased over a number of years and it is anticipated that the first group of these will be in place in early 2013.

Firefighter recruitment activity has been increased, with a total of 83 new recruits expected to be trained between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. A 23-person course is currently at NTC, with a further 12-person course to commence on 1 October. There will then be two further 24-person courses between January and June 2013. This will enable sufficient staff to be recruited to replace exiting staff, and increase our overall numbers to enable the first group of Relieving Workers to be appointed.

The first 28 Relieving Worker positions will be advertised within the next few days, with applications closing on Friday 10 August. Full details can be found on the Vacancies and Appointments site on FireNet.



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