

# Social Service Workers Pay Equity Claim Update

December 2023



## Update on social worker pay equity settlement extension

### Social worker pay equity settlement extension

On 5 December, Te Pai Ora was able to host senior leaders from Oranga Tamariki (Darrin Haimona, Deputy Chief Executive Māori, Partnerships and Communities) and Ministry of Social Development (Marama Edwards, Deputy Chief Executive, Māori, Communities and Partnerships) to respond directly to questions about pay equity extension. Nearly 80 people participated in this Q&A session. The slides from this meeting are now available [here](#) and a FAQ series will be released in early 2024.

The meeting was prompted by the level of frustration over delays in receiving contract variations, a lack of consistent information, and a myriad of other questions Te Pai Ora has received including about the new spine pay, who's covered, and where to go to resolve problems and disagreements.

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made over the last few weeks on completing outstanding pay equity contract variations. Almost all contracts have been completed. There about 60 contracts completed where the invoices have not been received, please submit these as soon as possible so payments can be made.

To ease pressure of the delays in social workers receiving the pay equity supplement, Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Social Development advise that where there are concerns about some details of the contract variation received, providers are able to agree the contract variation now and receive payment, and then work through further details in the New Year. You will need to let your contract manager know about your concerns when you return the signed contract

See the contact information below if you are concerned about progress or have any questions.

Te Pai Ora CEO Belinda Himiona and Pay Equity Lead Brenda Pilott are both regularly engaging with government agencies and providers to actively problem solve and provide updates to the sector.

### Contacts for information

- Your contract manager - this is the first person to approach in most instances.
- Oranga Tamariki - contact your relevant Māori, Partnerships and Communities Advisor
- MSD - [community\\_information@msd.govt.nz](mailto:community_information@msd.govt.nz)
- Whatu Ora - [Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)
- Te Pai Ora SSPA [Belinda Himiona](#) or [Brenda Pilott](#)

### Understanding the new social worker pay spine

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission has prepared two powerpoints that provide straightforward information on how the new pay spine works, who it covers and how each of the four pay categories is determined.

[Guidance on the new pay spine for social work in community and iwi organisations](#)

[Who is covered by the social work pay equity extension](#)

