

29 January 2021
Media release

Increase sick leave but support employers, TIA says

Increasing sick leave entitlements will help protect the health of New Zealanders but employers need support to meet the extra costs, Tourism Industry Aotearoa says.

TIA supports the proposal to raise sick leave entitlement to 10 days for all workers. But in its submission on the Holidays (Increasing Sick Leave) Amendment Bill, TIA says that many tourism businesses operate on low margins and are not able to meet the costs of more sick leave.

The Association is asking lawmakers to ensure measures are put in place to alleviate the financial pressures on such businesses.

“The **New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment** encourages tourism businesses to become Employers of Choice, by creating good quality jobs and working conditions. However, adding further costs to fragile businesses at this time may trigger more financial stress and make employers reluctant to hire new people,” TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts says.

TIA’s submission also points out that more work is needed to clarify the sick leave entitlements of part-time employees. The current proposal offers part-timers the same number of sick days as full-time workers.

TIA proposes that a mixed model is developed that provides a fixed sick leave entitlement to part-time employees, with additional sick leave linked to the number of hours worked.

To read TIA’s submission, go to:

<https://tia.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/employment-submissions/>

For more information, please contact:

Ann-Marie Johnson
Communications Manager
0276 004 565
ann-marie.johnson@tia.org.nz

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz



KEY FACTS

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Tourism in New Zealand was a \$114.8 million per day industry. Tourism delivered more than \$48 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributed another \$66.7 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism was New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$17.5 billion or 20.1% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2020).
- 13.6% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand worked directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 384,186 people were working in the visitor economy.
- The **Tourism 2025 & Beyond** sustainable growth framework/Kaupapa Whakapakari Tāpoi has a vision of growing a sustainable tourism industry that benefits New Zealanders.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz

