

STATE SERVICE ACT REFORM

Frequently Asked Questions



Why are you reviewing the State Sector Act?

New Zealand needs a modern, agile and adaptive public service that puts people at the heart of everything it does. The current legislation is 30 years old and creates a number of roadblocks that prevent departments working together in the best way possible to deliver the best outcomes and services for New Zealanders. Just as our communities have changed, it is time to look at how our public service needs to change to keep up and meet modern day demands and needs.

Is it really so hard for departments to work together?

Departments already work together where they can, but it is hard to do and hard to sustain. The success of these partnerships is difficult because the current Act supports departments working alone rather than together. Funding and accountability expectations mean departments ultimately have to prioritise their own streams of work, which limits their ability to share resources. With the best will in the world, the Public Service doesn't have the flexibility it needs to go far enough and move fast enough to solve some of New Zealand's biggest challenges.

Will there be restructures, job losses or more jobs created?

This reform is not looking at restructuring any specific departments. Rather, it is looking at how we can support departments to work together better and deliver better results. It suggests new options for how departments can align themselves and their resources, both people and funding, to deliver the best services and outcomes for New Zealanders.

Why haven't you used a Royal Commission, or a review panel, to review the State Sector Act?

There have been a number of reviews of State services since the State Sector Act since it came into force 30 years ago, including:

- the Logan Report of 1991
- the Schick Report of 1996
- the 2001 report of the Ministerial Advisory Group of the Review of the Centre, and
- the 2011 Report of the Better Public Services Advisory Group.

Whilst the State Sector Act has generally been acknowledged as positive in terms of increasing the efficiency and responsiveness of individual departments, formal reviews of the Act consistently highlight a number of concerns e.g. that the Act fragmented a previously unified Service.

Over time, the pressure for reform of the Act increased as deficiencies of the legislation were seen in practice. This found expression in the 2013 amendments to the Act that, while significant, did not alter its underlying framework. Experience since 2013 shows the persistence of the same issues that have been apparent since the 1990s.

The present reform offers an opportunity to address these issues. We have learned many lessons from previous reviews and amendments to the Act. The time has now come to

take action, by consulting the people of New Zealand, and then implementing the necessary changes to the legislative framework that underpins our public service.

How long will this process take?

If the reform goes ahead, the *Aotearoa New Zealand Public Service Bill* will be introduced to Parliament mid-2019.

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.havemysay.govt.nz

There, you'll be able to get detailed information about the proposed changes and what they mean for New Zealanders and our public services.

How can I have my say?

 <p>WEB</p> <p>Go online to www.havemysay.govt.nz to read more about the proposals and make your submission</p>	 <p>EMAIL</p> <p>Email your thoughts to us at submissions@havemysay.govt.nz</p>	 <p>WORKSHOPS</p> <p>Attend one of our public workshops. Visit the website for more info.</p>	 <p>SOCIAL</p> <p>Join the social conversation. Like and follow us on SCNZ</p>
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