



GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

P O Box 98, Rarotonga, Cook Islands * Tel: (682) 29-370 * Fax: (682) 23-608 * E-mail: internalaffairs@cookislands.gov.ck

PRESS RELEASE

Consultations with Labour Stakeholders Commence

A series of meetings with national stakeholders in the labour sector have commenced following key appointments in the Labour and Consumer Division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

“These one-on-one meetings have been initiated by the newly appointed Director of Labour and Consumer, Sandrina Thondoo,” stated Secretary of Internal Affairs, Bredina Drollet, “and are essential for the Ministry in developing effective relationships to ensure employment issues are addressed adequately”.

The first meeting held with the Cook Islands Workers Association (CIWA) on 11 November 2016 was an opportunity to identify priority areas for discussion over the next few months. Concerns raised by CIWA included the minimum wage and the cost of living, the plight of foreign workers, the necessity of having awareness campaigns and proper legal framework for shift workers.



Supporting the Ministry’s direction includes one other new appointment with Elizabeth Hosking, formerly of Emergency Management Cook Islands, as Senior Labour Inspector.

The Ministry looks forward to having similarly constructive meetings with the other stakeholders, as these are crucial to strengthen and build social dialogue at the national level.

END

Word count: 183

Date of Release: Saturday 19th November 2016

Contact:

Sandrina Thondoo, Director of Labour: sandrina.thondoo@cookislands.gov.ck

Please reply all correspondence to the Secretary of Internal Affairs