23 April 2015

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

ATT: NEWS EDITORS/CHIEF REPORTERS.

**Report from the 2015 Minimum Wage Review Panel**

The Minimum Wage Review Panel recommended that the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. Albert Nicholas, increase the minimum wage rate of pay to $6.25 per hour, an increase on the current minimum wage rate of $6 per hour. The report and recommendations have been discussed by Cabinet.

Next week the Minister will make an announcement on the minimum wage rate which is expected to take effect on 1 July 2015.

Working in accordance with the Employment Relations Act 2012, and guided by terms of reference, criteria, and public feedback, the Minimum Wage Panel submitted the 2015 Minimum Wage Rate Review Report to the Minister in March.

Review findings showed that an incremental and universal increase would be of most benefit to employers and employees.

The cost of the 4.2% increase to $6.25 per hour to government is estimated to be $100,000 per annum.

This year’s Minimum Wage Panel was appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs, and comprised Patricia Tuara Demmke (Ministry of Internal Affairs), James Webb (Ministry of Finance and Economic Management), Steve Anderson (Chamber of Commerce), Anthony Turua (Cook Islands Workers Association) and Nga Mataio (community representative).

Copies of the Minimum Wage Review report panel can be obtained on request . For further information, please contact the Labour & Employment Relations Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs, ph 29370.

**END**

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