
ReStart

HELP FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN MADE REDUNDANT

What is ReStart?

Restart is financial and job search assistance for people who have been made redundant, or are no longer self-employed, due to the economic downturn. It has three parts:

- ReCover – a payment if you have a dependent child or children and you were eligible for the in-work tax credit before being made redundant, and/or
- RePlace – up to an extra \$100 in addition to Accommodation Supplement depending on your circumstances
- ReConnect – help to get you back into a job.

ReStart assistance will be paid for a maximum of up to 16 weeks or until you return to a full time job, whichever happens first.

Who can get ReStart?

To get ReStart you must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and usually live in New Zealand
- have been working continuously for at least six months before you were made redundant – although you could have worked for more than one employer
- be looking for a full time job
- have been made redundant from a full time job – this means your employer has stated that your job no longer exists, or
- have been self employed and have no continuing work.

Full time work means:

- any person working 30 hours or more a week
- 20 hours a week or more for a sole parent
- a person in a relationship must have been working enough hours so that when combined with their partner the total adds up to 30 hours or more.

RePlace

RePlace provides extra help with accommodation costs. It is available to anyone who has been made redundant and is receiving the maximum amount of Accommodation Supplement. RePlace may be available to single people, sole parents and couples (with or without children).

RePlace provides up to \$100 extra a week, depending on your circumstances, such as where you live and how many children you have.

People who receive more than \$25,000 as a redundancy payment will not be eligible for RePlace – though you may be eligible for Accommodation Supplement depending on your circumstances. Redundancy payments of up to \$25,000 will be ignored when assessing eligibility for Accommodation Supplement.

Accommodation Supplement is not available for people living in a Housing New Zealand Corporation property.

ReCover

ReCover is for families with children who are no longer eligible for the in-work tax credit – \$60 a week for families with one to three dependent children and \$15 a week for each extra child.

ReCover is only available if you have children and were eligible to get the in-work tax credit before being made redundant, but no longer qualify because of redundancy.

This means you would have been working the required hours and earning under an income limit before being made redundant.

ReConnect

ReConnect can help you find another job. Anyone can get ReConnect whether or not they are receiving a benefit, RePlace or ReCover.

Help to get another job could include support to develop a CV and prepare for interviews, help with career planning, support for training to get new skills or information about job vacancies.

When can I get ReStart?

From 8 November 2008, you can apply for the ReStart package if you have been made redundant. The financial assistance will not be available until 1 January 2009. The date of your initial payment will depend on your circumstances, but payments can be made from the second week of January 2009. You have 20 working days to apply from when you were made redundant. If you were made redundant between 8 November 2008 and 15 December 2008, then you have until 15 January 2009 to apply.

How can I apply?

Contact us on **0800 559 000** to see if you are eligible for the ReStart package. If you think you might qualify contact us as soon as possible after you were made redundant.

If you want to apply we will send you an application form or make you an appointment at your nearest service centre.

For information about what other assistance is available and how we can help you find a job, you can look at our website **www.workandincome.govt.nz**.