

Kia ora,

Finance workers across Aotearoa are struggling due to rising petrol prices, and they urgently need to be able to reduce the costs of attending work at your institution.

I am writing today on behalf of Workers First Union members to ask that you suspend all office attendance requirements and allow your staff the option of working from home until the situation improves.

The global issue of petrol price increases may be outside of your company's control, but what you can control is how the business steps up for workers in a way that reflects the care and consideration they offer your customers on a daily basis.

With the current concerns about petrol prices and transport, two simple but effective solutions are:

1. Allow working from home as often as necessary for anyone that has an ability to do so.
2. Subsidise transport costs for anyone required to be onsite at a branch or office to complete their work.

This is no longer a nice-to-have. It is becoming a necessity, and for workers that can work from home, it is an achievable solution that would provide some relief and peace of mind.

Petrol prices in Auckland recently surged as much as 24 cents per litre, with the average price of 91 grade hitting a near four-year high. Prices may reach as high as \$4 per litre, which would represent an almost 50% increase for workers. While the Government has been urging motorists not to panic, it's increasingly difficult not to, as workers see more and more of their pay spent on simply travelling to and from work.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, businesses did whatever they could to help staff keep providing great service to customers. We ask you to treat the current fuel crisis with the same degree of pragmatism and care, as there appears to be no clear end in sight for the price rises that workers will be dealing with.

We are keen to meet with you at your earliest convenience and look forward to discussing how your business could help to facilitate personal cost savings, by allowing greater ability to work from home or subsidisation of petrol and transport costs for those workers on the front-line supporting customers.

Ngā mihi,

Callum Francis

National Finance Organiser
Workers First Union