

Remit

application form



// HOW TO SUBMIT A REMIT

Remits are positions or policies put to LGNZ's AGM for a vote.

Any remit needs the support of either an LGNZ zone, sector or five councils.

LGNZ reviews all proposed remits to ensure they meet the criteria below.

If your council wants to propose a remit for consideration by the 2023 AGM, please complete this form and email it, along with any supporting information, to agm@lgnz.co.nz by Wednesday 24 May.

If you have any questions about the remit process, or want help completing your application, please contact Grace Hall, Director of Policy and Advocacy at grace.hall@lgnz.co.nz

// THE PROCESS FROM HERE

Once LGNZ receives your proposed remit, it will be considered by our Remit Screening Committee. This Committee is made up of LGNZ's President, Vice-President, Chief Executive and Director of Policy and Advocacy. The Remit Screening Committee will determine whether your proposed remit satisfies the criteria, and whether or not to put it forward to the 2023 AGM.

We will let you know whether your remit is going forward to the AGM by 2 June.

// CRITERIA FOR REMITS

- 01 The remit is relevant to local government as a whole, not just a single zone, sector or council.
- 02 The remit relates to significant matters, including constitutional and substantive policy, rather than matters that can be dealt with administratively.
- 03 The remit concerns matters that can't be addressed through channels other than the AGM.
- 04 The remit does not deal with issues that already being actioned by LGNZ. This covers work programmes underway as part of LGNZ's strategy.

COUNCIL PROPOSING REMIT:**CONTACT NAME:****PHONE:****EMAIL:****REMIT:**

This proposed remit asks LGNZ, Local Government NZ to lobby on our behalf for Government to enable all Local Government elected members in Aotearoa NZ under the age of 65 to be eligible for KiwiSaver benefits included with their remuneration.

WHO SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED REMIT?

List either the LGNZ zone, sector group or five councils that support the remit.

WHY IS THIS REMIT IMPORTANT?

Briefly describe what the issue is and why it requires action.

Max. 150 words

This remit is about equity. For 16 years, since its inception, KiwiSaver has been available for ALL New Zealanders, who - usually reside in New Zealand, and are aged between 18 and 65 and work. And for the entire time, our sector has been the only group in our country who have been excluded from the accruing savings, and any ability to benefit from personal and employer contributions and annual Government contributions. KiwiSaver has evolved into a sort of universal benefit for all to use during our lifetimes, whether it is for a first home deposit, during a personal or community emergency, or as a form of life insurance.

Unfortunately, those elected members who are most fiscally disadvantaged fall into two groups. The young, who we are trying so hard to attract to the sector, and those with the experience of 2 or 3 or more triennium behind them, who can count in the tens of thousands, the negative effects on their KiwiSaver balances on their 65th birthday. We meet all the criteria to be eligible for KiwiSaver benefits, all we ask for is to be treated like all other New Zealanders.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

You may wish to include:

- // What has caused this issue?
- // Relevant legislation, policy or practice
- // Key statistics to show the scope of the issue
- // An outline of what your council/ others have already done to address this issue or bring about the proposed change

Max 500 words

In 2013, responding to an inquiry from a newly elected councillor, the Department of Internal Affairs office explained that LG elected members were excluded from receiving KiwiSaver because they got remuneration, and weren't technically employed, but that this was a matter of sorting out the mechanics.

They sorted it out to the extent that Members of Parliament became eligible for it, but still not our sector. The Remuneration Authority Report on Members of Parliament Remuneration (July 2021) says 'MP's elected after 1992 are entitled to a superannuation subsidy contribution. The scheme can be Kiwisaver or registered retirement savings...'

Elected Members have submitted the need for KiwiSaver entitlement at every Remuneration Authority Review. There have been letters written to every Minister of Local Government since 2013, and there have been a few.

In June 2022, Minister Kieran McNulty was appointed Associate Minister for Local Government, he embarked on a road trip to spend time at every council table. At our table, he and our local MP were shocked to hear that no LG elected member in New Zealand was entitled to KiwiSaver benefits and they put it on their matters for action list.

We finally heard back in January 2023, when we were asked to submit to the Local Government Sector review, and asked to make sure there were plenty of requests for KiwiSaver to entitlement to push the issue to the top of the list for change.

In April 2023, the newly formed LGNZ Community Board Executive Committee members voted unanimously to seek the support of councils for an LGNZ remit regarding central government action on KiwiSaver, for all elected members.

As a sector, we have only one National body to lobby alongside us and for us, and this remit to LGNZ is the next step. This is an opportunity to thank the LGNZ executive for their past support of elected members on this issue. We again seek active support from LGNZ on this issue to enable us all to be treated fairly, like everyone else, so that our sector can thrive.

And we seek membership support to make this happen for all elected members now and in the future.

HOW DOES THIS REMIT RELATE TO LGNZ'S CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME?

Briefly describe how the proposed remit aligns with LGNZ's strategy and policy priorities but does not duplicate existing or planned work.

Approx. 150 words

It is very appropriate for the issue of KiwiSaver entitlement for elected members to be actively promoted by LGNZ because it is over 10 years since a similar remit made it through to the AGM remit stage. It also aligns well with the Local Government sector review process currently underway in the house.

It aligns with LGNZ's strategy and policy in that KiwiSaver, 'the universal benefit' builds fiscal resilience for elected members of all ages. It is a lifelong and life-changing benefit for those young candidates LGNZ is trying so hard to attract to the sector.

Remembering that during our tenure as elected members, to be our best for our communities leaves very few hours in any day for paid employment or the operation of private businesses on the side. And while we work so hard our computer-generated monthly remuneration summaries show that we are paid in some cases \$4 an hour. ...without even KiwiSaver benefits. In reality, this is financial punishment.

The fact is we already meet all criteria to be eligible for KiwiSaver, and to be excluded is an omission that must be addressed, so the appeal is made to our National Body to assist on our behalf.

HOW WILL YOUR COUNCIL HELP LGNZ TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS REMIT?

Briefly describe the steps that your council would be prepared to take to assist LGNZ to progress the remit.

100 – 300 words

All of us are in a position to lobby those elected members in our networks and each of us has a local Member of Parliament to write to. Our councils can support LGNZ's work in our submissions. The Local Government sector is full of elected people who are, by nature very giving people, caring for their community and its issues and wanting to create something better for their communities. That is commendable. But sometimes people who are so giving forget to think of themselves, and so it may feel strange or 'out of sorts' to be asking for something for ourselves.

So, A plea - I ask you to support this remit for every experienced elected member who has been in council for a decade or more, facing retirement age, and a decade-sized hole where the accrued Kiwisaver benefits and savings their neighbors have, should be. It is not equality of any sort.

I ask you to support this remit for all the newly elected members, who are facing the reality of juggling their council commitments, with jobs, bringing up families, and that \$4 an hour line in their payslip that can feel like being elected was more like a 3 yr sentence than an accomplishment.

And lastly, I ask you to support every future bright young new candidate by ensuring they get every benefit they are entitled to from Kiwisaver for life.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

PLEASE ATTACH TO YOUR EMAIL:

- // A copy of this application form.
- // Evidence of support from an LGNZ zone or sector group or five councils. This could be in the form of emails, letters or zone/sector group meeting minutes or resolutions.
- // Any further contextual/background information you'd like to share, combined in a single PDF file.