

28 July 2025



## Education and Workforce Committee

### Submission on the

### Immigration (Fiscal Sustainability and System Integrity) Amendment Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Amendment Bill that takes further steps to ensure that New Zealand has a immigration system that is sustainable, robust and aligned with national interest.

PrintNZ is the industry association that represents the print and packaging industries in New Zealand. Print and packaging are niche industries that are vital to the economy. They are incorporated into almost every product and service made in New Zealand whether used locally or exported.

We have around 500 member businesses located across the length and breadth of New Zealand, with our membership representing more than 85% of the turnover of the combined industries. Our membership includes businesses with as few as one employee through to those with more than 1000 employees.

We support the provisions of the Bill that strengthen judicial oversight of compliance and detention activities, and amendments relating to offences, penalties and proceedings in order to reduce exploitation and suitably penalise those that breach the rules. We also believe these sanctions should be extended beyond the employers and migrants, to include third parties that are often responsible for the breaches.

However we do not support the introduction of provisions enabling the government to levy employers that utilise immigration to supplement their workforce and fill vital skilled roles.

Employers currently pay fees under the Accredited Employer Work Visa scheme. This mandatory accreditation process already imposes a direct cost on employers engaging with the system. To impose further costs would be prohibitive for many small businesses and deter them from using the immigration system to support and develop their staff.

Migrants coming into the printing industry are highly skilled and used to train kiwis in new technology/processes to ensure they remain abreast of best international practice and create opportunities to improve productivity and quality of product. They are vital to the development of

skills training for New Zealand and imposing additional costs could represent a substantial additional cost burden for these businesses.

The premise for the levy scheme is that it is necessary due to migrants adding pressure and costs to public services, however this is incorrect. Working-age migrants contribute more to the tax base and consume less public services and with the right immigration settings that ensure that other family members can also work and contribute, this increases the contribution to taxes.

We believe the introduction of a levy would shift costs from the government to employers with no reasonable justification.

## Conclusion

We ask that Clauses 55 and 56 of the Bill, amending Section 399 of the Act, be removed.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Cobb', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ruth Cobb

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PrintNZ

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