

PUBLICSECTOR101

MODULE 1

Overview & Fundamentals of the Public Sector



Institute of
Public Administration
New Zealand

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Module 1 – Overview and Fundamentals of the Public Sector

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Tena koutou katoa - Welcome



IPANZ is delighted to introduce the public sector to you.

It is your public sector, as a taxpayer, citizen and New Zealander or indeed as a public servant. People interact with public servants almost everyday wherever they are in New Zealand. Every person working in the public sector, helps to build the trust and confidence in government every day. Every person working in collaboration with the sector, whether from local government, NGOs or private sector, does the same.

Public Sector 101 is a comprehensive online learning resource designed to provide you with an introduction to the fundamentals of the public sector. The programme brings together the expertise, insight and professional experience from a team of highly experienced, former and current, senior public sector practitioners. We hope the learnings help you to perform your roles, wherever you are in the system, knowledgeably, professionally and with a spirit of service.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa
Shenagh Gleisner, Executive Director



Overview

Module Objective

This module is designed to provide you with information that will help you to build your knowledge and understanding of the history and purpose of New Zealand's Public Sector.

Information covered in this module provides the context and basic information that will help you better understand why the 'system' works the way it works.

What we will cover

- A short history of governance in New Zealand
- What is the State Sector?
- Who works in the Sector?
- The Purpose, Principles and Values of the Public Service
- Key Legislative Changes

A Short History of Governance in NZ

- **Pre-Colonisation** – Māori live in tribal/iwi and sub-tribal (hapū) groupings, under the rule of Chiefs
- **1840 – Treaty of Waitangi** – Written with the intention to establish a British Colony in NZ, which would provide protection to Māori against French colonisation, while recognizing Māori ownership of lands
- **1840-1854 – Colonial Government** – A Governor (representing Queen Victoria) ruled New Zealand.
- **1852 – New Zealand Constitution Act** – Introduced representative government to NZ

Key Message –

NZ's governance arrangements have changed to reflect the social, economic and cultural changes of the time.

What is the State Sector?

It is sometimes called the three-tier state —

- **Public Service** – public service Departments and Ministries
- **State Services** – including Crown Entities with Boards
- **State Sector** – including Tertiary Educational Institutions and commercial State-Owned Enterprises (SoEs)

Key Message –

New Zealand's State Sector comprises of departments and agencies across three different tiers. Each tier has specific statutory responsibilities, governance arrangements and functions.

Refer to the handout A Guide to New Zealand's State Sector Agencies, produced by Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission.

Who Works in the Public Sector?

Of the Public Sector workforce —

- **20%** - are inspectors and regulatory professionals
- **17%** - work in social, health and education agencies/institutions
- **11.7%** - are information specialists
- **Only 5.6%** are policy analysts/advisors

Source — Public Service Commission, Public Service Workforce 2019

Key Message -

The greatest number of public servants work in frontline/operational jobs. The myth that all public servants are in bureaucrats working out of offices in Wellington, couldn't be further from the truth.

Purpose of the Public Service?

The Public Service Act 2020 states the purpose of the **public service** is—

- To support democratic government
- To help develop and implement government policies
- To deliver high quality and efficient public services
- To support government to pursue long-term interest
- To facilitate active citizenship

Key Message –

New Zealand's Public Service has a clear and multi-dimensional purpose, legislated for in the Public Service Act 2020. To be an effective public servant you need to know the purpose of the Public Service.

The Spirit of Service

The Public Service Act 2020 articulates for the first time a **Spirit of Service to the Community** —

1. The fundamental characteristic of the public service is acting with a spirit of service to the community.
2. Public service leaders and boards of Crown agents must preserve, protect, and nurture the spirit of service to the community that public service employees bring to their work.

Key Message –

Public Servants must be motivated by the purpose of working toward making a positive difference to New Zealand and everyone who lives here.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Websites

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission – www.publicservice.govt.nz
<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/resources/>
<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/our-work/integrityandconduct/>
<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/our-work/mog/>

Parliamentary Counsel Office: New Zealand Legislation – Public Service Act 2020
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0040/latest/LMS356868.html>

Books

Hayward, J (ed.) 2015, *New Zealand Government and Politics*, 6th ed, Oxford University Press, Victoria.

King, M. 2003, *The Penguin History of New Zealand*, Penguin, Auckland.