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Hon Sir Michael Cullen
Chair, Tax Working Group

PRESS RELEASE

Tax Working Group welcomes submissions on future of tax

The Tax Working Group is seeking the views of as many New Zealanders as possible about the future of tax.

Group chair Sir Michael Cullen says now is the time for people to start thinking about what changes they would like to see to the tax system.

"Submissions open today for those wanting to share their thoughts straight away and on March 14 an updated website will be launched along with a background paper that will provide more assistance.

"The paper is designed to help those less familiar with the current system and who may be less interested in making a technical submission.

"We've already had three very productive meetings looking at ways we can tackle the issues raised in the Government's Terms of Reference and there's a great deal of enthusiasm for including all New Zealanders in this process.

"There's a broad range of experience and opinions sitting around the table but we certainly don't have a monopoly on knowledge of tax and its far-reaching implications.

"Tax affects everyone so we want to hear as many different perspectives as possible."

The Tax Working Group's two-month consultation period will run until the end of April and the Group will use the feedback from New Zealanders to influence the interim report due in September.

"This won't be your regular tax consultation," says Sir Michael, "The experts will have a role to play but we're really keen to hear people's own experiences about what works and what needs improving."

Sir Michael says the Tax Working Group is keen to tackle the gritty issues but open-minded about where discussions may lead.

"We bring no preconceived views to the table. All ideas must stand on their own merits.

"This is all about making sure we have a tax system that works well now and in the future for all New Zealanders.

“Everyone should feel like they have a stake in this process and a valid opinion on the future of tax.”

Submissions can be sent to submissions@taxworkinggroup.govt.nz

The Tax Working Group’s Terms of Reference can be found here:

<https://taxworkinggroup.govt.nz/terms-of-reference/>

ENDS

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