



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Petitions Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana

54th Parliament
September 2025

Petition of Issie Mullen-Winiata: Ensure equal KiwiSaver rights for under 18s

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Greg O'Connor, Chairperson

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Petition of Issie Mullen-Winiata

Recommendation

The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Issie Mullen-Winiata—Ensure equal KiwiSaver rights for under 18s—and recommends that the House take note of its report.

Request to mandate employer contributions to KiwiSaver for under 18s

This petition was signed by 107 people. It was presented to the House by Hon Matt Doocey on 12 March 2025, and requests:

That the House of Representatives makes it mandatory for employers to contribute to KiwiSaver for all workers under 18.

KiwiSaver is a voluntary scheme for retirement savings. Employees who are enrolled in the scheme choose what percentage of their salary goes into their KiwiSaver savings account. Employers are also required to contribute towards their employees' KiwiSaver, with some conditions.

At the time the petition was presented to the House, employees had to be aged 18 to 64 to qualify for compulsory employer KiwiSaver contributions. Ms Mullen-Winiata said excluding workers younger than 18 felt “outdated, unfair, and out of step with the values of equity and opportunity that New Zealand prides itself on”. She gave three reasons why workers younger than 18 should be entitled to mandatory employer contributions:

- **Fairness and equality**—She noted that teenagers are legally allowed to work and pay taxes, yet do not get the same mandatory employer contributions that their older colleagues receive.
- **Encouraging financial literacy**—She said giving young people a reason to engage with KiwiSaver would encourage good saving habits that would benefit them for life.
- **Long-term financial wellbeing**—She said contributing to KiwiSaver at an early age, even with small amounts, has significant benefits over time.

Budget 2025 addresses the petitioner’s request

We received a submission from Inland Revenue. It outlined the background to KiwiSaver and explained the changes to the scheme that were introduced at Budget 2025. One such change was that, from 1 April 2026, workers aged 16 and 17 will be eligible for compulsory employer contributions. We trust that this change addresses the petitioner’s concerns. We thank Ms Mullen-Winiata for taking the time to petition Parliament.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The petition was signed by 107 people on the Parliament website. It was presented to the House by Hon Matt Doocey and referred to us on 12 March 2025. We met between 15 May and 18 September 2025 to consider it. We received written submissions from the petitioner and Inland Revenue.

Committee members

Greg O'Connor (Chairperson)
Kahurangi Carter
Greg Fleming
Paulo Garcia

Related resources

The documents we received as evidence in relation to this petition are available on [the Parliament website](#).