



Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

FINANCE NEWSLETTER 121

TO: Parish and Presbytery Treasurers

FROM: Brendan Sweeney, Manager, Financial Services

DATE: 11 May 2010

1.	Stipend Increase
2.	2010 Statistics Forms
3.	Payments to Volunteers

1. Stipend Increase

The unadjusted Labour Cost Index (LCI) has been released by the Department of Labour, and shows an increase for the year to March 31 of 1.5%. From July 1, this increase will be applied to Minister's basic stipend (and seniority allowance), bringing the adjusted amount to \$42,533 per annum. Please refer too the attached schedule for detail and contact Margaret Fawcett or myself if you require further detail.

2. 2010 Statistics Forms

We will shortly be releasing parish finance and membership statistics forms for the year to 30 June 2010. From this year continued parish charities registration is dependent on completion of the forms so please ensure they are returned by the deadline of 30 September. The forms are unchanged from last year.

Please note that, as required in the Presbytery Reform process, collection of forms is now the responsibility of this office, rather than Presbyteries, so please send completed forms here. There will be a self addressed envelope included with the statistics pack. This change is a requirement of the Presbytery Reform process and Presbytery Clerks have been informed.

3. Payments to Volunteers

I have received advice from Inland Revenue regarding the tax treatment of payments to volunteers. The key points are:

- Reimbursement of expenses incurred during volunteer activities are tax free. These payments may be for actual expenses incurred or a reasonable estimate of expenses. Where possible keep receipts so that GST may be claimed where applicable.
- Payments of Honoraria may be tax free if conditions are met:
 - The payment is less than the market rate of the job and
 - No fixed payment for the job is expected by the volunteer

If the payment is made to the volunteer as part of their normal employment duties, tax will have to be deducted.

Please let me know if you require more detail of these guidelines.

Brendan Sweeney