

# INTRODUCTION COPY

*Mr Peters*

## UNEMPLOYMENT (ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY)

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### ANALYSIS

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### A BILL INTITULED

**An Act to establish a Royal Commission, enquiring into the causes and effects of unemployment in New Zealand and possible policy stances in response.**

5 WHEREAS registered unemployment has now reached its highest recorded levels since the 1930's Depression and also exceeded post-Depression records in seventeen of New Zealand's twenty-three employment districts; and, whereas there has been a dramatic decline in real government  
10 expenditure upon Programme VI: Employment and Training of Vote: Labour; and, and whereas the incidence of unemployment is particularly concentrated upon Maori, and Pacific Island peoples, the young and women; and, whereas civic and community leaders have expressed considerable  
15 concern over the effects of high unemployment, this Act shall address those highly relevant and sincere concerns with the aim of providing a clear set of economic and social policy alternatives to combat rising unemployment levels).

20 **BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED** by the Parliament of New Zealand as follows:

**1. Short title and Commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Unemployment (Royal Commission of Inquiry) Act 1987.

(2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of December 1987.

**2. Royal Commission of Inquiry**—(1) There is hereby established a Royal Commission of Inquiry to be known as the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Unemployment, and known hereafter as the “Royal Commission”. 5

(2) The Royal Commission shall consist of 7 persons appointed by the His Excellency the Governor-General on the recommendation of those bodies specified in subsection (3) of this section. 10

(3) The members of the Royal Commission shall include:

(i) a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand who shall be Chairperson;

(ii) one member to be nominated by the New Zealand Maori Council; 15

(iii) one member to be nominated by the National Youth Council;

(iv) one member to be nominated by the Municipal Association of New Zealand;

(v) one member to be nominated by the Vocational Training Council; 20

(vi) one member to be nominated by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions;

(vii) one member to be nominated by the New Zealand Employees Federation. 25

**3. Terms of Reference**—The Royal Commission shall receive representations upon, inquire into, investigate and report upon the following matters:

(i) The nature and basis of unemployment in New Zealand; 30

(ii) The effects of unemployment upon the social and economic fabric of New Zealand;

(iii) The particular nature and incidence of unemployment amongst Maori and Pacific Island peoples and culturally appropriate policy responses; 35

(iv) The role of voluntary, welfare and departmental agencies in meeting the needs of unemployed persons;

(v) The most appropriate departmental organisation to address the needs of the unemployed; 40

(vi) Alternative policy mixes to address high unemployment, with particular reference to provincial areas;

(vii) Overseas experience and the evaluation of various international models for application to New Zealand;

5 (viii) The relationship between economic policies and employment policies;

(ix) Any other matter relating to unemployment in New Zealand that the Royal Commission may see fit to inquire into, investigate and report upon.

**4. Powers and Authority**—(1) The Royal Commission may  
10 conduct any inquiry or investigation under the terms of reference as expressed in Section 3 above, in such manner and at such time and place as it deems expedient, with power to adjourn from time to time and place to place as it thinks fit.

(2) The Royal Commission shall not at any time publish or  
15 otherwise disclose, save to His Excellency the Governor-General, in pursuance of this inquiry or by His Excellency's direction, the contents of any report so made or made by the Royal Commission, or any evidence or information obtained by the Royal Commission in the exercise of its powers hereby  
20 conferred upon that body, except such evidence or information as it received in the course of sitting open to the public.

(3) The powers of the Royal Commission shall be hereby  
conferred and exercisable notwithstanding the absence at  
anytime of any two or three of the members appointed so long  
25 as the Chairman or a member deputed by the Chairman to act in his/her stead, and at least three other members, are present and concur in the exercise of the powers.

**5. Duration**—The Royal Commission shall report back its final findings and recommendations to His Excellency the  
30 Governor-General on 1 June 1988.