

# Submission

## *Childcare allowance for elected members of local government – Policy paper*

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council  
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SUBMITTED TO: Remuneration Authority  
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### **Introduction**

1. Ashburton District Council (“Council”) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Remuneration Authority *Childcare Allowance for Elected Members of Local Government – Policy Paper*. This submission is being made on behalf of the Council.
2. Located between Selwyn and Timaru Districts respectively, more than 34,400<sup>1</sup> residents live in the District, with the main town of Ashburton accounting for approximately 56% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.

### **General discussion**

3. Council supports the intent of the Remuneration Authority’s Policy Paper into *Childcare Allowance for Elected Members of Local Government*.
4. Council supports the inclusion of the proposed text for the Childcare Allowance in the next Local Government Determination.
5. Council believes that the inclusion of this allowance will assist to reduce barriers for some members of the community seeking to enter into elected positions within local government.
6. The reduction of barriers for people seeking to enter local body politics inherently allows for a greater diversity, inclusivity and representation of our community around the Council table.
7. Council notes that the treatment of the allowance by the IRD is yet to be determined, and that the current view is that it will be taxed at source.
8. Council also notes that the Remuneration Authority has considered the issue of dependent care allowances and that this may be investigated further in the future.
9. Council will seek to amend its Elected Members’ Allowance and Reimbursement (Expenses) Policy earlier than planned so that Council can signal an ability to pay a child care allowance before the 2019 local body elections.
10. In doing so, Council will be providing candidates standing for Council in the 2019 local election a clear signal of allowances.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2018

Ashburton District Council thanks the Remuneration Authority for the opportunity to submit on the Remuneration Authority – Childcare Allowance for Elected Members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Favel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'F'.

DONNA FAVEL  
**Mayor**