

PREFACE

The Labour, Employment and Work (LEW) Conference provides a forum to examine issues relevant to labour, employment and work in New Zealand. Since first convening in May 1984, this biennial conference, sponsored jointly by the Industrial Relations Centre and the Institute of Geography at Victoria University of Wellington, has become established as the foremost symposium for research on labour markets and employment in New Zealand. It offers academics, independent researchers and practitioners situated throughout the country a unique opportunity to gather together and discuss research in progress as well as theoretical and practical aspects of labour, employment and work in New Zealand. It is the hope of the organizers of these Conferences that this interaction will inspire future research and collaboration between those in attendance.

The Tenth Labour, Employment and Work (LEW) Conference, which took place on Thursday, November 21st, and Friday, November 22nd, 2002, was, for the first time in the history of this Conference, held at Victoria University of Wellington's Downtown Campus. Papers were invited on all topics related to labour, employment and work in New Zealand. In addition, a special invitation was sent out prior to the Conference to those conducting research on the impact of the *Employment Relations Act 2000*, ageing of the labour force, the future of work in New Zealand, regional issues in labour, employment and work, and new employment institutions. The Conference organisers were most pleased with the over response, having received more than 40 submissions from researcher on both sides of the Tasman.

The LEW Conference Proceedings is the main archival publication of the Conference. The Proceedings serve as a

key reference document for researchers and practitioners in the field. This is the seventh set of proceedings published from the ten LEW Conferences held to date. Authors have been requested to limit their contribution to 5000 words of text in order to focus attention on the most important issues. In some cases, readers are referred to the authors' more extensive reports published elsewhere.

Papers presented at 2002 LEW Conference were grouped under twelve headings: the functioning of New Zealand's labour market, health and safety in the workplace, the future of work in New Zealand, research and the policy development process; non-standard and contingent work, work-life balance and family issues, labour market conditions and occupational trends, gender and aging, skill development and performance management, industry and regional studies, the institutional framework, and technology and work. As in previous proceedings from these Conferences, we include a brief overview of these sessions, organized in the same manner in which they were presented at the Conference itself.

Although it is one of the purposes of the University to make its facilities and service staff available for such conferences, it is necessary that conferences bear a considerable share of their cost. The organizers and participants of the Tenth Conference on Labour, Employment and Work, nevertheless, welcome and would like to express our great appreciation for the assistance provided by Victoria University of Wellington. In particular, I would like to express my own personal gratitude for the efforts and assistance of Sophia Lum for her considerable help in planning and coordinating the Conference and in preparation of these proceedings.

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