

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of the relationships between the public sector, Parliament and government		
Level	5	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the relationship between the public sector and Parliament; describe the relationship between the public sector and government; identify and describe the relationship between own agency and that of other public sector agencies; and identify and apply principles, conventions, and practice to a current activity, project or policy implementation in own agency.
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Classification	Public Sector Services > Public Sector Core Skills
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- This unit standard is intended for people who are employed in the public sector and evidence should come from within the candidate's workplace.
- Definitions**

Public sector refers to the State sector (central Government), including the Public Service, crown entities, non-uniformed staffs of the services and forces, offices of Parliament; and all local authorities (local Government), including local authority trading enterprises (LATEs).

Public Service refers to the departments of State which carry out core government business and which are listed in the First Schedule to the State Sector Act 1988.

State sector refers to all organisations that are included in the 'Crown reporting entity' and are referred to in s27(3) of the Public Finance Act 1989, namely: Public Service departments; other organisations defined as departments for the purposes of the Public Finance Act 1989; Offices of Parliament (e.g. the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment); State owned enterprises; Crown entities; and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

Principles, in the context of this unit standard, refer to socially recognised core ethical values, rules, and/or standards which are expected of public servants in carrying out their duties; for example, the principles of justice and equity.

Conventions, in the context of this unit standard, refer to widely accepted understandings that guide conduct and relationships in the New Zealand public sector – either explicit or implicit; for example, the neutrality of the Public Service.

Practice, in the context of this unit standard, refers to the usual way the work of the New Zealand public sector is conducted, which is born out of experience; for example, public servants should not become involved in party political affairs.

Values, in the context of this unit standard, are beliefs shared in common by public servants and/or society. The values of the New Zealand public sector are likely to be

a mix of institutional arrangements (such as accountability), instrumental values (such as efficiency), and fundamental values (such as integrity, fairness).

Standards, in the context of this unit standard, arise out of the shared values, and refer to the bases of assessing and measuring expected behaviours.

- 3 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes the State Sector Act 1988 and Public Finance Act 1989.
- 4 Resources relevant to this unit standard can be found on the State Services Commission website <http://www.ssc.govt.nz>.
- 5 Recommended skills and knowledge for entry:
Unit 19895, *Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and role of the State sector, Parliament and Government*; and Unit 19899, *Describe the roles of central agencies and legislation that impact on the State sector*.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the relationship between the public sector and Parliament.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The description includes the working principles between the public sector and parliament and demonstrates an understanding of the relationship.

Range supremacy of Parliament; accountability to Parliament, non partisanship, professional independence.
- 1.2 The description includes the principles, conventions, and practice that govern the duty of public sector employees in assisting in the work of the House of Representatives.

Range may include but is not limited to – responsibility to Minister, advising on bills, interpreting regulations, answering parliamentary questions, accounting for departmental operations, responding to requests for information;
evidence of three examples is required.
- 1.3 The description includes the principles, conventions and practice that govern the duty of public sector employees in assisting in the work of select committees.

Range may include but is not limited to – duty to government, attending select committees as advisors, attending select committees as witnesses, attending select committees as individuals, providing information, withholding information;
evidence of three examples is required.

Outcome 2

Describe the relationship between the public sector and government.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The description includes principles, conventions, and practice governing relationship of public sector employees with government.
- Range may include – ministerial responsibility, accountability, impartiality and political neutrality, integrity, professional duty (demonstrating commitment, independence, collective responsibility); evidence of three examples is required.
- 2.2 The description includes principles, conventions, and practice governing relationship of public sector employees with cabinet.
- Range may include – collective responsibility, confidentiality, consultation and co- ordination with other participating departments, prior to making a submission, providing clear concise and comprehensive information, implementing cabinet decisions; evidence of three examples is required.
- 2.3 The description includes principles, conventions and practices governing relationships of public sector employees with ministers of the Crown.
- Range may include but is not limited to – ministers' relationships with departments, frank and free advice, responsiveness, implementing government policy; evidence of three examples is required.
- 2.4 The description includes principles, conventions, and practices governing cases of differences of view and/or conflict between public sector employees and government.
- Range may include but is not limited to – Cabinet decisions versus portfolio policy involving public expenditure, loyalty to minister versus public good, neutrality versus advocacy, contestability of advice versus interdepartmental co-operation; evidence of three examples is required.

Outcome 3

Identify and describe the relationship between own agency and that of other public sector agencies.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The description includes the nature of the relationship with central agencies.
- Range Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, State Services Commission, Treasury.

- 3.2 The description identifies and describes the key relationships with other public sector agencies.

Outcome 4

Identify and apply principles, conventions, and practice to a current activity, project or policy implementation in own agency.

Range one activity, project or policy implementation of significance.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Relevant principles, conventions, and/or practices are identified.
- 4.2 The case study is analysed in relation to the relevant principles, conventions and/or practices.

Replacement information	This unit standard and unit standard 19897 replaced unit standard 14938, unit standard 14939, unit standard 14940, and unit standard 14944.
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This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 May 2003	31 December 2023
Review	2	20 May 2011	31 December 2023
Review	3	25 February 2021	31 December 2023

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0121
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.