

LEAVE POLICY

Purpose

The policy objective is to clarify entitlements and to support Zeal Futures employees undertaking leave; also to expand upon the leave provisions outlined in the National Employment Standards and the Fair Work Act 2009.

Scope

All employees of Zeal Futures, including Zeal Futures Staff and Hosted Employees, are covered by this policy.

Responsibilities

Human Resources is responsible for the development, implementation and review of this policy. All Managers are responsible for discussing requests for leave with their staff as required. Managers are responsible for making recommendations to HR regarding leave requests that cover an extended period of time.

Document Owner

Group HR & Safety Manager

POLICY

Types of leave

This policy covers the following types of leave:

- Annual
- Personal
- Vaccination
- Long Service
- Compassionate and Bereavement
- Parental
- Family and Domestic Violence
- Rostered Day Off (RDO) & Lifestyle Leave
- Leave Without Pay
- Community Services (including Jury Duty)

Annual Leave

Employees should take Annual Leave regularly to support their Health and Wellbeing and to maintain a work life balance. Managers and Host Supervisors should not approve leave that will result in a negative Annual Leave balance. Where possible, annual leave applications should be submitted to the approving manager or Host Supervisor at least four (4) weeks prior to the planned leave. Annual Leave accruals will be managed by Zeal Futures in accordance with the Leave Procedure. All provisions for Annual Leave are as per the [National Employment Standards](#) and [Fair Work Act 2009](#) with the exception of provisions that are subject to current grandfathering or above award conditions as defined in an employee's individual contract of employment.

Employees are entitled to Leave Loading calculated at 17.5% with the exception of provisions that are subject to current grandfathering or above award conditions as defined in an employee's individual contract of employment.

Personal Leave

Employees should take Personal Leave as required to manage their health and that of their immediate family. If a Personal Leave request cannot be submitted prior to the absence, a request is required to be submitted on the first working day of the employee's return. A medical certificate (or Statutory Declaration) may be required after more than 2 consecutive days of Personal Leave or when Personal Leave is taken either side of a Public Holiday. All provisions for Personal Leave are as per the [National Employment Standards](#), Modern Award (if applicable), and [Fair Work Act 2009](#). In cases where Personal Leave appears excessive, forms a pattern, or if concerns are raised by the Host Employer, employees may be required to provide medical certificates for all absences. Please note that online medical certificates will not be accepted in these instances.

Vaccination Leave

Employees may take Vaccination Leave to manage their health and reduce the risk of catching and spreading Transmissible Diseases. Employees are entitled to two (2) hours Vaccination Leave per vaccination which has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Association.

Hosted Employees must liaise with their Host Supervisor to ensure they can be released from their work duties.

Long Service Leave

Employees are entitled to Long Service Leave in accordance with the [NSW Long Service Leave Act 1955](#). Four weeks written notice is required for any period of Long Service Leave.

Overview of entitlement:

At Five years' Service	Pro rata entitlement upon resignation or termination (<i>conditions apply</i>)
At Ten years' Service	Two months leave (8.67 weeks) paid leave
At Fifteen years' Service	One month (4.33 weeks) paid leave

Employees may not cash out Long Service Leave, payment for Long Service Leave entitlements is only made on termination of employment. When taking Long Service Leave an employee may elect to take one continuous period of leave or in two separate periods. If the leave owing is between 2 months and 19.5 weeks, they may elect to take three separate periods of leave. Where the leave exceeds 19.5 weeks an employee may access this entitlement over 4 separate periods. If an employee ceases work for any reason with service between 10 and 15 years, a pro rata amount is paid based on 3 months LSL entitlement for 15 years' service. Any lengths of unpaid leave (including unpaid parental leave) will not be included in the calculation of LSL entitlements.

Where an employee is covered by an industry-specific long service leave scheme (e.g. building and construction industry or community services), their entitlements will be governed by the rules and requirements of that scheme.

Compassionate & Bereavement Leave

Zeal Futures staff employees are entitled to three (3) days of Compassionate & Bereavement Leave per permissible occasion. An employee is eligible for Compassionate and Bereavement Leave when a member of their immediate family or household dies or suffers a life-threatening illness or injury. An employee is also eligible for Compassionate Leave if the employee, or employee's current spouse or de facto partner experiences a miscarriage. The employee is required to notify Zeal Futures as soon as practical. Where additional leave is required, employees are entitled to submit an application for further leave. Additional leave may be paid from Personal or Annual Leave accruals as determined on a case-by-case basis. Zeal Futures reserves the right to request proof of illness, injury or death in the form of a funeral notice, letter from treating doctor or statutory declaration. All provisions for Compassionate & Bereavement Leave are as per the [National Employment Standards](#) and [Fair Work Act 2009](#), except where stated otherwise in this clause.

Family and Domestic Violence Leave

An employee impacted by domestic violence will have access to paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave of up to ten (10) days in a twelve (12) month period.

The leave can be used when an employee is:

- experiencing family and domestic violence
- needs to take actions to deal with the impact of family and domestic violence
- it is impractical for the employee to deal with the impact of family and domestic violence outside of their ordinary hours of work (this could include, but is not limited to, attending urgent court hearings, accessing police services, and relocation to a safe place).

Family and Domestic Violence Leave is provided in addition to Zeal Futures other leave entitlements, may be taken as consecutive or single days, and can be taken without prior approval. The entitlement of ten (10) full days paid leave is not pro-rated for casual and part-time employees. Family and Domestic Violence Leave does not accrue year on year.

Access to accrued personal leave and additional paid leave may be considered on a case-by-case basis with approval by the CEO. Evidence may be requested in the form of a document issued by the Police Service, a Court, a Doctor, Domestic Violence Support Service, Lawyer, or a statutory declaration.

Zeal Futures will consider all applications for Flexible Working Arrangements made by employees experiencing Family and Domestic Violence. Personal information concerning domestic violence will be kept confidential by Zeal Futures however Zeal Futures may encourage the use of the Employee Assistance Program.

Rostered Day Off (RDO)

All full-time employees working a forty (40) hour week, or eighty (80) hour fortnight are eligible to accrue a monthly RDO.

RDO's are not allocated to a set day per month and can be taken in full (e.g., a whole working day), or taken as a part day. RDO hours can accrue up to five (5) days, accruals in excess of five (5) days are paid out in July and December of each calendar year.

Employees who adjust their span of hours, or for whatever reason do not work the full forty (40) hour week, or eighty (80) hour fortnight, will not accrue an RDO. Employees who are entitled to an RDO are not eligible for Lifestyle Leave.

Lifestyle Leave

Lifestyle Leave is provided to full time RTO Trainer & Assessors in acknowledgement of the reduced opportunity for flexible working arrangements for Zeal Futures employees providing face to face training delivery. Lifestyle Leave is intended to provide these employees greater flexibility to manage their 'life admin' and take a break to recharge during school term holidays. Lifestyle Leave is twelve (12) days of gifted leave each year. The Lifestyle days can be taken one per month or banked to be taken during school term holidays. Lifestyle Leave does not accrue year on year, leave not used within a twelve (12) month period will expire on 31st January each year.

Lifestyle Leave can be taken at the discretion and approval of an employee's Manager, with particular consideration given to class scheduling. If an employee hasn't utilised their twelve (12) days of Lifestyle Leave within the calendar year, they can use this leave during the Christmas Shutdown period prior to the 31st of January.

To be entitled to Lifestyle Leave employees will be Trainer & Assessors employed on a permanent full time basis for the purpose of delivering RTO training to students. Employees do not need to work additional hours to access the twelve (12) days of gifted leave each year. Eligible part time employees will be entitled to pro rated Lifestyle Leave based on their weekly ordinary hours.

Employees who are entitled to a Lifestyle Leave are not eligible for Rostered Days Off (RDOs).

Community Service Leave (including Jury Service)

Zeal Futures support employees who choose to serve their community by participating in voluntary activities. All employees are eligible to apply for unpaid Community Service leave for such service, including voluntary Emergency Management activities.

An employee engages in Emergency Management when:

- The activity involves dealing with an emergency or natural disaster
- The employee engages in the activity on a voluntary basis
- The employee was either requested to engage in an activity, or it would be reasonable to expect that a request would have been made if circumstances permitted
- The employee is a member of or has a member-like association with a recognised Emergency Management body.

Zeal Futures will consider applications for Community Service Leave (excluding Jury Service) on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to the length of leave requested and the business' operational requirements in deciding whether to accept or decline the application.

Employees required to attend Jury Service must advise Zeal Futures of the period or expected period of leave as soon as possible, providing evidence showing that they are required to attend Jury Service.

Full time and part time employees are entitled to 'make up pay' for the first 10 days of Jury Service. 'Make up pay' is the difference between any jury duty payment the employee receives (excluding any expense related allowances) from the court and the employee's base rate of pay for the ordinary hours they would have worked. Zeal Futures employees will be required to provide evidence that all necessary steps have been taken to obtain jury duty pay and the total amount of jury duty pay that has or will be payable to the employee for the period of leave; failure to provide this evidence makes an employee ineligible for 'make up pay'. All provisions for Community Service Leave are as per the [National Employment Standards](#) and [Fair Work Act 2009](#).

Leave Without Pay

Zeal Futures will consider applications for Leave Without Pay on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to the length of leave requested, the purpose of the leave and the business' operational requirements in deciding whether to approve the application. Applications for Leave Without Pay will only be approved when annual leave entitlements, accrued Rostered Days Off and Time in Lieu have been exhausted.

Parental Leave

Zeal Futures provides comprehensive support for eligible employees undertaking parental leave. This support is consistent with, and supplementary to, provisions made by Fair Work Australia and the Commonwealth Government. From 1st July 2026, staff employees are entitled to the equivalent of twelve (12) weeks paid parental leave, paid at the base weekly rate.

Any employee is entitled to parental leave if they satisfy the following criteria:

- They are a permanent employee; and
- They have had one single period of at least 12 months continuous service with Zeal Futures immediately before the date or expected date of the birth of the child or date or expected date of placement of an adopted or surrogate child and
- They are responsible for providing primary care to a child upon the birth of their child or their partner's child; or upon adoption/surrogacy placement of a child who is not the birth child of the employee or the employee's partner, under the age of 16 and has not lived continuously with the employee for 6 months or longer.
- Permanent employees that have had one single period of at least 12 months continuous service with Zeal Futures immediately prior to a stillbirth are also entitled to parental leave.

During parental leave, employees will continue to receive employer superannuation contributions.

Employees who do not wish to take their full entitlement to parental leave are required to notify their manager and HR & Safety team.

Casual employees are eligible for leave if they have been employed with the company on a regular and systematic basis for a period or sequence of periods of at least 12 months duration and have a reasonable expectation of ongoing employment with the Company. No temporary fixed term staff member will have their contract of employment extended beyond the date when it would have otherwise expired by reason of the operation of parental leave conditions. All provisions for Parental Leave are as per the [National Employment Standards](#) and [Fair Work Act 2009](#), except where stated otherwise in this clause.

Related Documents

- [Parental Leave Procedure](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program Procedure](#)
- [Management of Annual Leave Procedure](#)
- [Out of Office Procedure](#)
- [Return to Work Program for Zeal Futures](#)
- [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#)
- [Leave Application Form](#)
- [Fair Work Ombudsman website](#)

Due consideration has been given to legislation that may have been pertinent in the development of this policy. The relevant components have been incorporated and are again considered when conducting the policy review process.

Document History

Version	Prepared By	Approved By	Date	Description
1.0	A Malloy	Board of Directors	19/10/2023	Reviewed
2.0	A. Malloy	Board of Directors	23/05/2024	Updated
3.0	J. Lee	Board of Directors	19/02/2026	Updated
4.0	J. Lee	CEO	19/06/2026	Terminology update