

Journalist, Senior

Job Description

Date	July 2026
Location / Business Unit	Wellington, News
Reporting to	Bureau Chief, Wellington
Position Type	Permanent, Full-Time

Te Tūranga - About the Role

To conduct research and interviews, gather news information, and to write, edit, and voice news items and extended pieces on air and online.

As an independent and commercial-free public service broadcaster, RNZ's purpose is to serve the public interest.

Te Mahi - About the job

- Break news and regularly contribute ideas for original, investigative and enterprise stories.
- Report live on air and online on breaking news, and ongoing stories, and both from the RNZ bureau and from the field.
- Research and write stories on news topics relevant to areas of responsibility or round, as well as general news.
- Contribute daily, weekly and longer term to our planning process, adhering to deadlines, guidelines and formats.

- Write clear, sharply angled news copy, and more detailed background, feature and analysis copy.
- Update new directions and story developments / follow-ups.
- Foster and maintain a widespread network of contacts to bring in and break news stories
- Provide audience focussed audio and visual material for all platforms, using relevant and up-to-date audio editing and production skills.
- Provide digital, programmes, bulletins and the social media team with coverage updates, copy, audio, visuals, interviews, live input, background and feature material.
- Take ownership and responsibility for developing stories across both radio and digital, using the inherent strengths of each platform to engage audiences.
- Accomplish high quality work within deadlines and according to RNZ editorial policy and standards.
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with newsroom staff, and work collaboratively with the team, and across other parts of RNZ.
- Ensure all public representation maintains RNZ's reputation as independent, impartial, balanced and free of opinion.
- Undertake training and development and support production duties.
- Commitment to shift work.

Additional responsibilities at Senior Level

- Bring an increased number of breaking, original, investigative and enterprise stories to RNZ.
- Contribute to the development of improved processes to enhance our original, investigative and enterprise storytelling, planning, communication, collaboration and adherence to RNZ values in terms of attitude, behaviour and treatment of colleagues
- Contribute to the development of the RNZ style guide and editorial policy.
- Contribute significantly to professional development of less experienced journalists by providing guidance and advice (Senior is expected to have more advanced coaching skills)
- Deputise for Bureau Chief, as required.
- Role model RNZ's Organisational Behavioural Competencies.

Ōu Pūkenga - About You

Qualifications

- Tertiary journalism qualification or equivalent experience
- Current valid driver licence essential
- Gain a general RNZ on-air pass: clear vocal delivery with non-distracting speech, good interpretive skills and interviewing skills, good English, Māori and Pacific Island language pronunciation skills

Knowledge & Experience	• Knowledge of and interest in New Zealand news and current affairs • Understanding of the role of a public services broadcaster including the requirement for impartial and balanced reporting. • Advanced knowledge of media law and its practical application and of broadcasting standards • Good news sense • Strong demonstrated initiative in news gathering and processing • Experience with digital media and preparing online content is desirable
Skills	• Strong interpersonal and communication skills • Able to establish, develop and maintain good contacts • Able to develop effective working relationships with a news team, other colleagues and external parties. • News gathering / research skills / story initiation skills • Well-developed analytical skills • Agile and comfortable in breaking news situations, able to turn accurate copy quickly • Curiosity and diligence to execute assigned stories to highest standard • Ability to identify, develop and complete most story assignments to specified level • High level of initiative, originality, writing, processing and on-air skills • Audio recording, editing and production techniques • The ability to produce high quality, engaging and creative written and visual content for our digital platforms • Digital literacy • Advanced live-to-air skills • Effective networking with cultural and other community groups • Ability to produce first-class packaging including audio, sound (colour) and voice • Leadership skills • Planning and organisational skills sufficient to deputise for Bureau Chief

	• Ability to effectively coach others to develop their journalistic and broadcasting craft and news judgement
Personal Attributes	• Collaborative team player, displaying core RNZ values in terms of attitude, behaviour and treatment of colleagues • Self-motivated • Quick thinking • Broadcast quality voice • Imagination and the aptitude for making a story sound interesting on-air. • Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines • Commitment to producing a consistently high standard of work • Recognises the value of cultural and community diversity • Quickly adapts to need for change, is flexible in approach • Able to use initiative and adapt the changing priorities and demands of the newsroom



Te Ahurea - Our Culture

RNZ Attitudes

RNZ Attitudes are all about how we work. These attitudes are how we demonstrate our culture through our everyday actions, behaviour and decisions. They drive how we do things, what we value and what's expected of us. They exist so that RNZ is a culture for everyone to enjoy and flourish in.



We're bold and think big. We find a way to make things happen. We learn best by doing. We believe that trying and failing is better than not trying at all.



We deal with problems or new tasks with energy and creativity. We try new things, we evolve and we move fast.



We encourage people to flourish. we extend love and compassion to others and nurture relationships. We have collective strength and cherish individuality.