

## Who are we?

Southland Mature Employment Services (SMES) Ltd / Trust is a local registered charity that has assisted mature individuals to gain access to employment and is the Program Director of the New Zealand Championeers.

## What is this for?

New Zealand Championeers was designed for SMES Ltd / Trust for employees in participating workplaces with workplace improvement ideas called the **New Zealand Championeers Club** or those with promising new business ideas called the **New Zealand Championeers Ideas Growth Fund**.

Interested in learning more or participating?  
Check out our website!



[nzchampioneers.co.nz](http://nzchampioneers.co.nz)

New Zealand Championeers is administered for and on behalf of Southland Mature Employment Services (SMES) Ltd / Trust by Accounting Centre Southland.

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For more information, please contact Kerran Larson:  
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# Got a great idea for workplace improvement?



**We want to hear it!**

**New Zealand Championeers™**

**A new Southland incentive for 2026 / 2027**



Are you an employee with an idea for workplace improvement?

- Employees in participating Southland workplaces submit ideas for workplace improvement in conjunction with their employer
- Ideas are assessed for suitability and viability using a local review panel and integrated AI software
- The best ideas are commended to their businesses
- These employees could be awarded up to \$1,000 and a Championeers Trophy if their idea is accepted!

*Terms and conditions apply.*

*New Zealand Championeers was born from an idea of Kerran Larson, director and trustee of Southland Mature Employment Services (SMES) Ltd / Charitable Trust, about modernizing both the old “suggestion box” concept, and the process of attaining entrepreneurial funding. This was supported by fellow director / trustee Ruth Lieshout.*

*These ideas were in response to rising enquiries from mature employees seeking redeployment in Southland. SMES Ltd decided that their goal was to create a platform that fosters innovation, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship.*

*With the collaboration of Accountant Jayden Prattley, the idea grew into a dynamic initiative addressing declining employment opportunities while helping employees and entrepreneurs turn ideas into reality.*



Have a business idea?  
Need some financial assistance to test it?

- SMES Limited / Trust is offering grants to those with promising business ideas and who are needing finances to test their concept and turn it into a reality
- Get up to \$3,000 in incubator support, depending on the use of the funds
- Your idea will be reviewed using a local review panel and integrated AI software
- Your idea should lead to the potential creation of employment opportunities in Southland

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