

Aide-Mémoire

16th Annual Indian Newslink Business Awards

Date due to MO:	20 November 2025	Date of Event	24 November 2025
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Reference:	H2025075535
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: ☐		
Proactive release:	This title is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: ☒		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Ruth Cook	Engagement Manager, Corporate Services	s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]


Annie Coughlan
General Manager Communications and Engagement
Corporate Services

Date 20/11/25

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About the Event

Purpose of Meeting	You are scheduled to take part in a panel discussion at the Annual Indian Newslink Awards which recognise successful businesses in the Indian and wider South Asian communities.	
Details of Meeting	Date: Time: Venue:	24 November 2025 5:30-10:30pm Eventfinda Stadium, Northshore, Auckland, Silverfield and Argus Place Entrances.
Attendees	About 1000 attendees including political, business leaders and community representatives. Other speakers include Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Hon Chris Bishop, Hon Mark Mitchell and Hon Chris Hipkins.	
Organisation	Indian Newslink is a New Zealand based, fortnightly English language newspaper that serves the Indian community and other ethnic communities.	
Ministry representatives	Not currently attending but can attend at your request.	
Other information	• Call Venkat Raman two minutes before arrival and he will meet you at the front entrance s 9(2)(a) • As part of the panel discussion, you will speak for four minutes, and there will be five minutes for questions and answers. Talking points attached as Appendix One. • A full run sheet of the evening is attached as Appendix Two. • Biographies of key attendees is attached as Appendix Three. • Dress code is black tie and tuxedo or full suit.	
Media	Indian Newslink is a newspaper; no other media are invited.	

Background and context

The Indian Newslink Business Awards 2025

1. The Business Awards Programme was launched in 2008 and recognises achievements from the Indian and wider South Asian business communities.
2. The six judges for the 2025 Indian Newslink Business Awards are: Hon Matthew Robson (Chairman), Alastair Bell, Andree Atkinson, Monique Surges, Scott Moran and Sophie Schwass.
3. There are ten awards and a supreme award. Full details of the award categories can be found in the run sheet.
4. The Masters of Ceremonies are Kathleen Morrison (Partner, Meredith Connell) and Ravi Nyayapati (Independent Director).

Panel Discussion

5. You are taking part in a panel discussion with the theme of "2026 and Beyond, Stimulating Growth and Investment".
6. Craig Stobo (Chairman of the Financial Markets Authority) will give some opening remarks and moderate the questions and answer session.
7. Each panel member will speak for four minutes, followed by a five-minute question and answer session at the end - after all the speakers have presented. The order of speakers is as follows: Hon Chris Bishop, Hon Dr Deborah Russell, Hon Simeon Brown, Hon Jenny Salesa, Hon Chris Penk and Neil Paviour-Smith (Managing Director, Forsyth Barr).

Appendix One: Event Run Sheet

Time	Speaker/Topic
5:30-6:40	Sponsors' videos and MCs speak about House Rules, introduction
6:40-6:42	Jacob Mannothra – Managing Director & Publisher
6:42-6:45	Masters of Ceremonies
6:45-6:48	Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan – Welcome Address
6:48-6:54	Dance Performance – Ratna Venkat & Gurus of Groove
6:54-6:58	Hon Mark Mitchell
6:58-7:02	Hon Carmel Sepuloni – The Past 26 Years: An Overview
7:02-7:05	Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
7:05-7:08	Wayne Brown – Mayor of Auckland
7:08-7:11	Dr Madan Mohan Sethi – Consul General of India
7:11-8:20	Dinner & Dessert
8:20-8:23	Opening Remarks by Craig Stobo, Chairman FMA
8:23-8:27	Hon Chris Bishop – Building for the Future
8:27-8:31	Dr Deborah Russell: Member of Parliament: Politics of the Future
8:31-8:35	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health: Investing in Health
8:35-8:39	Hon Jenny Salesa - Member of Parliament, Labour Party
8:39-8:43	Hon Chris Penk, Minister of Small Business and Manufacturing: The State of the sector in 2029
8:43-8:48	Mr Neil Paviour-Smith

8:48-8:53	Q&A and Concluding Remarks by Mr Craig Stobo, Chairman, FMA
8:53-8:54	Neeta Bhushan, High Commissioner of India
8:54-8:59	Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – Prime Minister of New Zealand
9:05–9:45	Awards Presentation Ceremony 1. Business Excellence in Retail Trade 2. Business Excellence in Innovation 3. Business Excellence in Marketing 4. Business Excellence in Customer Service 5. Best Small Business 6. Best Large Business 7. Business Excellence in International Trade with India 8. Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year 9. Best Financial Advisor (Mortgage) of the Year 10. Best Businesswoman of the Year 11. Supreme Business of the Year
9:45–10:30	Photos, Networking & Conclusion

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

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Appendix Three: Biographies



Craig Stobo, *Chairing panel discussion*

Craig Stobo is a professional director with experience as a diplomat, economist, chief investment officer and chief executive. He is currently the Chair of the Local Government Funding Agency and Founding Director of the Auckland Future Fund. He was the former chief executive of BT Funds Management and has previously held a variety of director and chair roles, including NZ Windfarms Ltd, AIG Insurance New Zealand, Precinct Properties Limited and Fliway Group Limited.



Neil Paviour-Smith, *taking part in panel discussion*

Neil Paviour-Smith has over 35 years' experience in various roles in New Zealand capital markets. He has been Managing Director of Forsyth Barr since 2001. Neil is the former Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington and has served as a Director of NZX and Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (CAANZ), and as Chair of the NZ Regulatory Board of CAANZ.

He is a Director of Wellington Free Ambulance and New Zealand Initiative. He is a Fellow Chartered Accountant, Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Directors, a member of the Governance Institute NZ, and a Fellow of the Institute of Finance Professionals NZ (INFINZ), having chaired its predecessor the NZ Society of Investment Analysts.