



Report

Date: 6 July 2016

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development

Alignment Project: Progress update and decision required

*This document may contain legal advice and be legally privileged.
It should not be disclosed on an information request, without further legal advice.*

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

1 **Note** that this report:

- provides a revised A3 of the issues and advises you of the refreshed timeframes for the Alignment project
- updates you on the way forward for eight of the 36 Alignment issues
- seeks your agreement, on a ninth issue, to include New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension as income for Special Needs Grants

Yes / No

A practice change will ensure incomplete benefit applications are lapsed correctly (issue 2015/30)

2 **Note** that, by law, incomplete benefit applications lapse at the close of the 20th working day after the date of first contact by the applicant but operational practice allows for incomplete benefit applications to be treated as lapsed on the 20th working day itself, rather than from the following working day onwards

Yes / No

3 **Note** that operational practice changes will be made to ensure incomplete benefit applications are consistently lapsed at the close of, or after, the 20th working day after the date of first contact

Yes / No

4 **Note** that we will investigate the 250 benefit applications that may have been affected and make any corrections and back-payments accordingly

Yes / No

A partial practice change is being made, until legislation is enacted, in regard to third party review or appeal rights (issue 2015/04)

5 **Note** that, in October 2012, the Social Security Appeal Authority held that the current wording of the legislation enables any applicant or beneficiary "affected" to review and appeal against any decision or determination by the Ministry of Social Development

Yes / No

6 **Note** that the *Social Security (Extension of Young Persons Services and Remedial Matters) Amendment Bill* (which has just had third reading) specifies that an applicant or beneficiary can only review or appeal decisions about their own assistance, not that of a third party

Yes / No

7 **Note** that the timeframes involved in making the IT changes required to amend current messaging around people's review and appeal rights (in letters and online) do not, on balance, warrant an interim practice change

Yes / No

8 **Note** that, until the legislation is changed, we will progress any appeals from third parties

Yes / No

9 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Yes / No

Childcare regulations that reference the "Department of Child Youth and Family", instead of the "Ministry of Social Development" will be updated at the next regulatory amendment (issue 2015/24)

10 **Note** that the *Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004* refer to the "chief executive of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services", instead of the "chief executive of the Ministry of Social Development"

Yes / No

11 **Note** that, while untidy, these references must be read as references to the Ministry of Social Development, as directed in section 30I(2) of the *State Sector Act 1988*

Yes / No

12 **Note** that this legislative anomaly will be updated when the next time a change is being made to the *Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004*

Yes / No

Current treatment of Netherlands holiday pay will continue until a pending legislative amendment is ratified by the Netherlands Parliament (issue 2015/09)

13 **Note** that in January 2004, we recognised that the longstanding practice of not deducting Netherlands holiday pay from New Zealand benefits was not supported by legislation

Yes / No

14 **Note** that since 2004 we have been working with the Netherlands Parliament who are progressing the legislation that is required at their end to validate our practice

Yes / No

15 **Note** that given legislative change is progressing, we do not consider it appropriate to make an interim practice change but will continue to work proactively with the Netherlands to get this resolved as soon as possible

Yes / No

16 **Note** that once the amendment is ratified by the Netherlands Parliament, this will have retrospective effect to validate the existing practice that holiday pay is not and has never been deductible

Yes / No

17 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Yes / No

18 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Yes / No

The maximum rate of Emergency Benefit is being clarified through the Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill (issue 2015/20)

19 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Yes / No

20 **Note** that it was never intended that Emergency Benefit could be paid at a higher rate than that which an eligible person on an analogous benefit could receive, and no one is receiving an Emergency Benefit at a higher rate

Yes / No

21 **Note** that the maximum rate of Emergency Benefit is being clarified through the *Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill*

Yes / No

22 **Note** that, until the legislation is clarified, there remains a risk that our practice could be successfully challenged, and the Ministry will continue to monitor this risk

Yes / No

We will ask the Ministry of Justice to ensure the data they provide for the Warrant to Arrest policy meets the specifications in the Information Matching Agreement between our agencies (2015/32)

23 **Note** that the data match, between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry, that is used to facilitate the Warrant to Arrest policy does not include information on the "nature of the offence", that is specified in s126AC for the purpose of enabling the Ministry to implement s75B

Yes / No

24 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Yes / No

25 **Note** that the Ministry of Justice will be advised, in writing, of their legal obligations under s126AC and the need to ensure that data they provide to us meets their obligations specified in the Information Matching Agreement between our agencies
Yes / No

26 **Note** that we will update you on the response from the Ministry of Justice
Yes / No

Young people no longer subject to money management will continue to have any remaining credit on their payment card paid into their bank account (issue 2015/18)

27 **Note** that some young people exit the Youth Service money management regime with unspent money on their payment card, which they are only able to spend at a limited number of providers
Yes / No

28 **Note** that our current practice is to withdraw the funds from the card and deposit them into the young person's bank account
Yes / No

29 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege
Yes / No

30 **Note** that an amendment in the *Social Security (Extension of Young Persons Services and Remedial Matters) Amendment Bill* authorises that young people no longer subject to money management will have any remaining credit on their payment card paid into their bank account
Yes / No

31 **Note** that, until the legislation is passed, the current practice will continue, and the Ministry will continue to monitor the risk
Yes / No

The Ministry has provided advice on legislative options to disregard the proceeds of the sale of family home for 12 months (issue 2015/03)

32 **Note** that, in March 2016, we advised that there is no legislative support for our current practice of disregarding the proceeds of the sale of family home for 12 months if a client intends to repurchase [REP/16/3/200 refers]
Yes / No

33 **Note** that, in discussion, you directed officials to continue our current practice but provide advice on the legislative options to formally establish a disregard
Yes / No

34 **Note** that you received this advice on 1 July 2016 [REP/16/7/801 refers]
Yes / No

The Special Needs Grants Welfare Programme should be amended so that New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension are included as income (issue 2016/16)

35 **Note** that on 24 July 2014, we discovered that the longstanding practice of including New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension in the income assessment for Special Needs Grants was not consistent with legislation
Yes / No

36 **Agree** that New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension payments must be included as income when assessing eligibility for Special Needs Grants so that people with similar incomes receive similar hardship assistance

Agree / Disagree

37 **Agree** to sign the attached amendment to the Special Needs Grants Welfare Programme

Agree / Disagree

38 **Note** that if the amended Welfare Programme is signed, your office can arrange for it to be tabled in Parliament when the House resumes and officials will gazette it at the first opportunity after it has been tabled

Yes / No

39 **Note** that we will review around 1,150 Special Needs Grant records declined since 24 July 2014 where the income limit was exceeded due to New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension, based on current information held, and make payments accordingly if all other eligibility criteria are met

Yes / No

40 **Note** that we will not retrospectively review the cases prior to 24 July 2014 but, if a client seeks a review of decision, we will review their entitlements and make payments accordingly if all other eligibility criteria are met

Yes / No

41 **Agree** to send a copy of the report to the Associate Minister for Social Development.

Yes / No



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

6/7/16

Date

Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development

Date

Background

- 1 On 20 May 2016, you were advised that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) have taken a new approach to accelerate the resolution of Alignment Project issues.

General update

The Alignment Project timeframes have been refreshed

- 2 Although good progress is being made the work continues to involve considerable complexity and, to ensure decisions being made are based on robust data and advice, the assessment of each issue needs to be given full and thorough consideration.
- 3 Over the last few weeks some of the project's dedicated resources have been refocused on the Accommodation Supplement payment issue. As a result, the previously agreed timeframes for the Alignment Project have been adjusted. Deliverables that we indicated we would have to you by the end of June 2016 will now be with you on or before the end of August 2016. Attached is an updated A3 on the issues, which includes the adjusted timeframes.

Nine issues have now been investigated and a way forward determined

- 4 We have determined the way forward for nine of the 36 issues and this report updates you on the following issues:
 - lapse date of incomplete applications (2015/30)
 - third party review or appeal rights (2015/04)
 - references to the Chief Executive of Child Youth and Family (2015/24)
 - treatment of Netherlands holiday pay (2015/09)
 - Chief Executive power to grant Emergency Benefit at a higher rate (2015/20)
 - Warrant to Arrest data-match excludes the 'nature of offence' (2015/32)
 - treatment of payment card funds for exiting Youth Service clients (2015/18)
 - temporary disregard for home sale proceeds (2015/03)
 - New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension income when assessing eligibility to Special Needs Grants (2016/16).
- 5 In relation to the last issue, this paper seeks your agreement to amend the Special Needs Grant Welfare Programme to include New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension as income (issue 2016/16).

A practice change will ensure the correct lapse date is used for incomplete applications (2016/16)

- 6 The Social Security Act 1964 (the Act) specifies that an application for a benefit lapses at the close of the period of 20 working days after the date of first contact.
- 7 On 2 October 2015, MSD identified an issue where some staff were lapsing benefits during the 20th working day instead of waiting until the close of the working day.¹ This mistake only has a material impact on the client if later during that same day the client then presents sufficient information to complete their application.

¹ Although MSD's IT system calculates the lapse period correctly, there is inconsistent practice by some staff as to when incomplete benefit applications should be lapsed. In some cases, incomplete benefit applications are being actioned as lapsed during the 20th working day.

- 8 From 24 September 2007 to 29 February 2016, an estimated total of 36,573 benefit applications were lapsed with the reason code 'Application process not completed'. Of these, an estimated 250 applications (20-25 per year – much less than 1% of the total number lapsed) were manually lapsed on the same day as the automatically generated lapse date and an application process was restarted soon after.

Issue response

- 9 MSD intends to clarify operational guidelines as to when to treat incomplete benefit applications as lapsed and communicate this to all front-line staff. Note that, due to the insignificant number of benefit applications lapsed on the same day as the lapse date, it is not feasible to explore system enhancements at this time.

10 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

- 11 We will investigate 250 potentially affected client records and make any corrections and back-payments accordingly.

Imminent legislation change will ensure people can only review or appeal decisions about their own assistance (2015/04)

- 12 In October 2012, the Social Security Appeal Authority (SSAA) held² that the current wording of the legislation enables any applicant or beneficiary "affected" to review and appeal against any decision or determination by MSD.

- 13 The *Social Security (Extension of Young Persons Services and Remedial Matters) Amendment Bill* (which has just had a third reading) specifies that an applicant or beneficiary can only review or appeal decisions about their own assistance.

Issue response

- 14 MSD do not propose to make a practice change. Given that legislative change is imminent, a practice change (to amend information on clients' review and appeal rights in all online and system-generated messaging) is not feasible.
- 15 Until the legislation is changed, we will progress any third party appeals through standard processes. Once the legislation is enacted, we will send internal communications advising staff that a third party, without authorisation, is not able to apply for a review of decision.

16 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

² NZSSAA118.

Childcare regulations reference the “Department of Child Youth and Family”, not the “Ministry of Social Development” (2015/24)

- 17 MSD administers the childcare assistance in accordance with the provisions in the *Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004*. The regulation’s terminology has no impact on policy or practice.
- 18 The *Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004* state approval by the “chief executive of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services”, a position that no longer exists.³ The regulations should, instead, reference the “chief executive of the “Ministry of Social Development”.

19 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Issue response

- 20 This anomaly will be updated the next time that a change is being made the *Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004*. The next scheduled opportunity will be in April 2017, as part of the annual general adjustment of benefits and allowances.

The treatment of Netherlands holiday pay (2015/09)

- 21 Netherlands old age pensioners in New Zealand receive an annual amount in addition to their old age pension which is known as ‘holiday pay’. MSD has not deducted the amount of Netherlands holiday pay from New Zealand benefits and pensions from the date that the first Social Security Agreement between New Zealand and the Netherlands (the Agreement) was introduced in February 1992.
- 22 MSD did not originally consider the Netherlands holiday pay was deductible from New Zealand benefits⁴, however subsequent legal advice has specified that it should be deducted. Section 70 of the Act provides that social security pensions paid by overseas governments must be deducted dollar for dollar from any New Zealand entitlement.
- 23 On 16 May 2007, Cabinet agreed to amend the Agreement [SDC Min (07) 5/4 refers] so that holiday pay is not deductible. As part of this process an Order in Council was passed. The amendment to the Agreement does not come into effect until it is endorsed by the Netherlands Parliament.
- 24 The amendment will have retrospective effect to validate the fact that holiday pay is not and has never been deductible. The amendment will have no tangible implications for clients who receive this payment. The amendment will only make explicit the treatment of holiday pay that is already occurring.

Issue response

- 25 MSD do not consider it appropriate to make a practice change at this point in time given only the final step in the legislative process remains. Once the Netherlands Parliament has ratified, which they have expressed a desire to do, the issue will be resolved and retrospective effect will validate the existing practice that holiday pay is not and has never been deductible.

³ Regulations 3, 25, 26 and 30.

⁴ MSD originally misunderstood the nature of holiday pay and considered it to be an additional payment separate from the usual monthly payment of Netherlands old age pension. However, it has now been revealed that the holiday pay forms part of the Netherlands old age pension.

26 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

The maximum rate of Emergency Benefit is being clarified through the *Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill (2015/20)*

27 Section 61 of the Act provides that the Chief Executive may grant Emergency Benefit (EB) where a person is not eligible for another benefit and is in hardship because they cannot earn enough income to support themselves.⁵

28 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

29 It was never intended that EB could ever be paid at a higher rate than that which an eligible person on an analogous benefit could receive, and no one is receiving an EB at a higher rate.

30 Changes being currently progressed through the *Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill*, which had a first reading on 10 May 2016, clarify that the maximum EB rate payable must not exceed the rate of the analogous benefit in the Act.

We will ask the Ministry of Justice to ensure the data they provide us for the Warrant to Arrest policy meets the specifications in the Information Matching Agreement between our agencies (2015/32)

31 The data match between the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and MSD which is used to facilitate the Warrant to Arrest (WTA) policy does not include information on the "nature of the offence", that is specified in s126AC for the purpose of enabling MSD to implement s75B.

32 The statutory obligation to provide specific information on the nature of the offence, as set out in s126AC, is an obligation for MOJ, not MSD. However, MSD has a legal obligation, in s75B, to be satisfied that criminal proceedings have commenced, in a New Zealand court, and 28 days have elapsed since a warrant was issued.

33 To be satisfied for the purpose of s75B, MSD relies on MOJ to provide the exact information specified in the 'Extract Criteria' of the Information Matching Agreement.

34 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

35 However, MOJ will be formally notified of the issue so they can develop their own view of their legal obligations under s126AC and ensure that the extracted data meets the requirements specified in the Information Matching Agreement. You will be updated on the response from the Ministry of Justice.

⁵ The provisions for EB recognise the special or unusual circumstances of recipients, by giving case managers wide discretion to grant EB and set conditions of grant taking those circumstances into account.

Young people who are no longer subject to the money management regime will continue to have any remaining credit built up on their payment card paid into their bank account (2015/18)

36 Some young people exit the Youth Service money management regime with unspent money on their payment card, which they are only able to spend at a limited number of providers. This circumstance was not contemplated when the money management regime was created, so there are no legislative provisions dealing with this situation.

37 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

38 To resolve the issue, an amendment in the *Social Security (Extension of Young Persons Services and Remedial Matters) Amendment Bill* authorises that young people no longer subject to money management will have any remaining credit on their payment card paid into their bank account.

39 Until the legislation is passed, the current practice (withdrawing unspent money on a young person's payment card and depositing into their bank account) will continue.

We have provided advice on legislative options to disregard the proceeds of the sale of family home for 12 months (2015/03)

40 In March 2016, MSD advised you that there is no legislative support for MSD's current practice of disregarding the sale proceeds of a family home and any interest derived from the proceeds in the income and cash asset tests used to assess eligibility for financial assistance, for 12 months, if there is an intention to re-purchase a home

41 In your discussion with officials, you indicated that MSD should:

- continue the current practice of disregarding the proceeds of the sale of family home for 12 months if a client intends to repurchase
- provide advice on legislative options to formally establish a disregard.

42 You received this advice on 1 July 2016 [REP/16/7/801 refers].

We consider Special Needs Grants should include New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension as income (2016/16)

43 On 24 July 2014, we discovered that the provisions in the Special Needs Grants (SNGs) Welfare Programme excluded New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension (NZS/VP) as income when assessing applications for SNGs. This is not our current practice.

Operational policy and practice

44 Our operational policy and practice, since at least May 2000⁶, has been to include NZS/VP payments as income when assessing SNG applications. This practice means that the same level of assistance is available to people regardless of whether they are working, receiving an income-tested benefit or receiving NZS/VP. People with income over the threshold of \$801.31 (at 1 April 2016) are not able to access an SNG.

⁶ The incorrect information has been present in the MAP guidance since at least May 2000, but was not present circa 1999 in the last version of ROAD (MAP's predecessor).

- 45 The scenarios in the table below show how NZS/VP income impacts on SNG entitlement under current legislation and current practice (using 1 April 2016 rates).
- Scenario 1 shows that if NZS/VP payments are not treated as income - a superannuitant couple could earn up to, or the equivalent of, the SNG income limit, on top of their NZS/VP (a total of \$1,453.90 a week) without losing any entitlement to hardship assistance.
 - Scenario 2 shows that if the payments are treated as assessable income – the couple can earn, in total, \$801.31 a week before they lose entitlement to an SNG.

Table: impact of NZS/VP payments on SNG eligibility

Impact of including/excluding NZS/VP payments for the purpose of SNG income assessment			Scenario 1 - as per legislative wording (NZS/VP <i>excluded</i> as SNG income)	Scenario 2 - as per current practice (NZS/VP <i>included</i> as SNG income)
Income received	(a)	NZS/VP rate	\$652.60	\$652.60
	(b)	Other income	\$801.30	\$801.30
	Total income		\$1453.90	\$1453.90
Income for SNG purpose	'assessable' income		\$801.30 (only a)	\$1453.90 (a + b)
	SNG income limit		\$801.31	\$801.31
	SNG decision		Eligible for SNG (income is below the limit)	Decline SNG (income exceeds the limit)

Legislative practice

- 46 SNGs are provided through a Welfare Programme, under section 124(1)(d) of the Act, which uses the income definition in section 3(1) of the Act. The income definition in section 3(1) of the Act excludes all benefits from being counted as income, and NZS/VP payments are considered to be 'benefits' for the purpose of section 3(1).

Policy intent

- 47 SNGs provide targeted one-off financial assistance (recoverable and non-recoverable) to help low-income people meet their essential and immediate needs. A person is required to show they cannot meet the need from their own resources or through other sources, and are subject to an income test (and a cash asset test).
- 48 The Welfare Programme's current wording would allow a non-income-tested NZS/VP couple to earn nearly \$34,000 a year more than working or income-tested beneficiary families - and still be able to access an SNG.⁷ This means that people in similar situations (in terms of income levels) receive different levels of hardship assistance.
- 49 In line with treatment elsewhere in the welfare system, we conclude that it is not the intent that NZS/VP clients be advantaged over others and that people in similar situations (in terms of income levels) receive similar hardship assistance.

Things to consider about current and future practice

50 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

⁷ The other benefits included in the s3(1) definition are income-tested and the abatement rates applied to beneficiaries' additional income already mean that people exit from benefit before they earn a total income that is over the SNG income limit. NZS/VP are not income tested benefits.

- 51 In the 2015 calendar year, 484,571 SNGs were granted totalling over \$65 million. This includes:
- 19,154 NZS/VP clients being granted totalling over \$3.2 million and
 - 500 NZS/VP clients declined SNGs for a range of reasons.

Proposed action

- 52 We propose that the SNG Welfare Programme be amended immediately to include NZS/VP as income, rather than make an interim practice change and then amend the Welfare Programme. A change to the SNG Welfare Programme will be quick (even taking into consideration the rule that instruments not come into force until at least 28 days after they have been notified in the Gazette).
- 53 If you are satisfied that people with similar income should receive similar hardship assistance, you can sign the attached amendment to approve the inclusion of NZS/VP payments as income under the SNG Welfare Programme. Your office will then need to arrange for a copy to be tabled in the House when the House resumes in August, and then we will ensure that it is published in the next available edition of the Gazette.

Things to consider about previous practice

54 Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

55

- 56 Estimates show that around:
- 1,150 NZS/VP clients have been declined SNGs since July 2014
 - 8,950 NZS/VP clients have been declined SNGs between May 2000 and July 2014.
- 57 Note that it is not always clear why the application was declined as the same code is used to record both income or cash assets being exceeded. Clients could have been declined for other reasons⁸ (and this data may not be recorded).

Issue response: SNGs since July 2014

- 58 We will review around 1,150 SNG records declined since 24 July 2014 where income limits were exceeded due to NZS/VP. This involves correcting errors based on current information held and making payments accordingly if all other eligibility criteria are met. The reassessment of each record requires a manual income calculation to assess whether the SNG application had been incorrectly declined.

⁸ For example, could meet the need through other sources, did not meet their hardship obligations, and may have caused or contributed to the immediate need or the situation that has given rise to the immediate need.

- 59 Clients identified as having an SNG declined incorrectly will be contacted (further work is being undertaken on how we will inform clients and make any required retrospective payments).

Issue response: SNGs prior to July 2014

- 60 MSD does not intend to retrospectively review cases prior to July 2014 given the administrative costs and challenges involved. This would take approximately 9 full-time dedicated staff 12 months to do, and would cost in the region of \$706k to retrospectively review the 8,950 cases from May 2000 to July 2014.
- 61 We note that given the SNG relates to immediate and emergency needs, the utility of a review for older cases is questionable given the circumstances are likely to have changed. As these applications are historic, changes in client circumstances will be problematic (e.g. a client could be deceased, no longer in receipt of NZS/VP or residing overseas), and there may be insufficient detail to carry out a review.
- 62 MSD will, where requested by a client, review any previous decision to decline an SNG where income limits were exceeded due to NZS/VP.

Next steps

- 63 In regard to other Alignment items, you received further advice on the Accommodation Supplement payment error (issue 2015/15) on 4 July 2016 [REP/16/7/701 refers].
- 64 You will receive further updates, in the coming weeks or months, as the project work continues and issues are resolved.
- 65 In particular, you will receive:
- in late-July or early-August 2016, advice on the way forward for the next group of Alignment issues including, but not limited to:
 - High Court decision on Terminal Benefit (2015/01)
 - inconsistent treatment of lump sum amounts of overseas pensions (2015/08)
 - entitlement to Childcare Assistance and Child Disability Allowance in cases of shared care (2015/02)
 - by mid-August 2016, advice on the way forward for the next group of issues
 - at the end of August 2016,
 - advice on the way forward for the last group of Alignment issues
 - an update on the implementation of operational changes and remedial work required to resolve issues
 - at the end of December 2016, a further update on the implementation of operational changes and remedial work required to resolve issues.

Report ref: REP/16/6/703

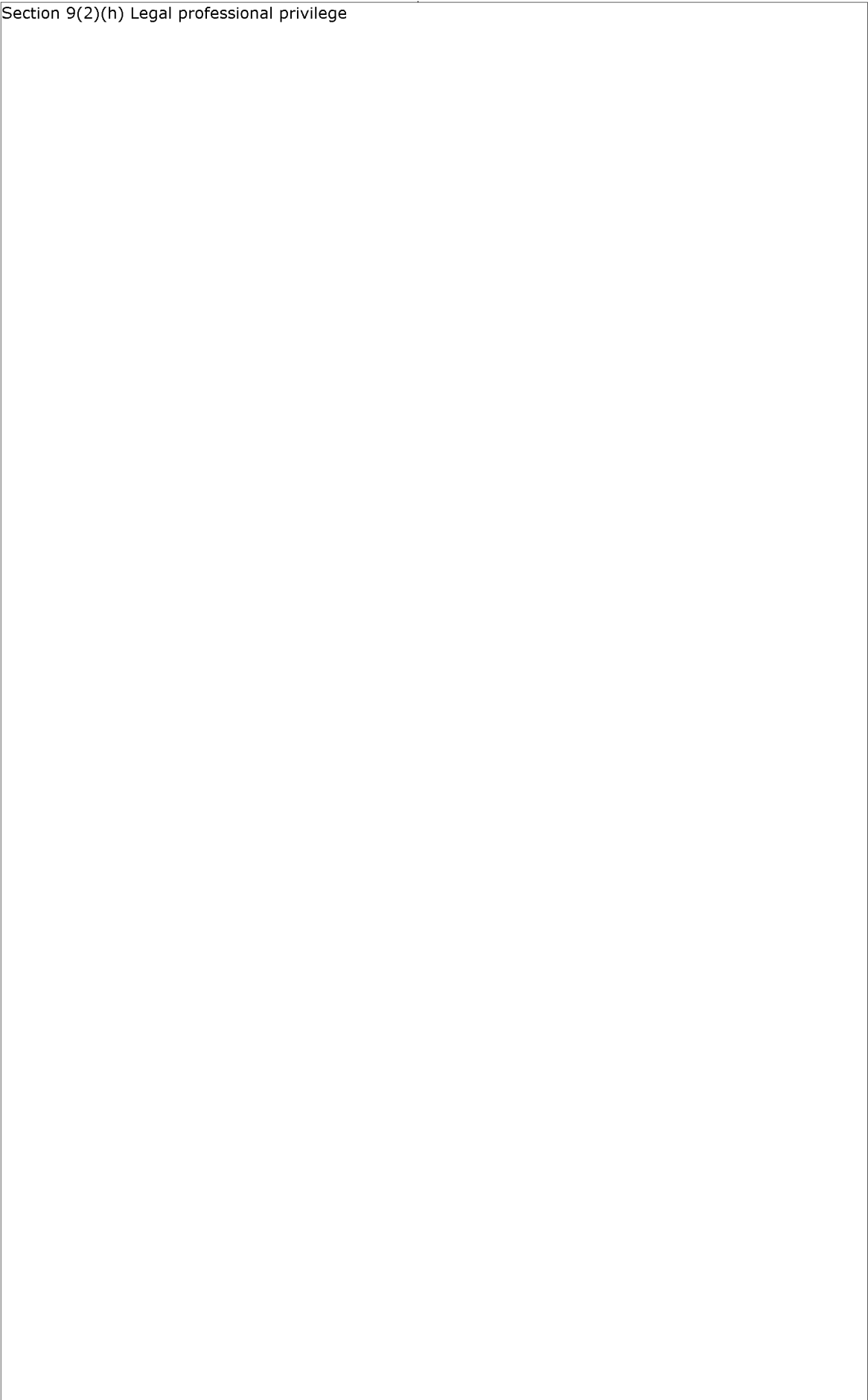
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1. OPERATIONAL PRACTICE CHANGES & ISSUES (16)	2. LEGISLATIVE CHANGE WHERE THE VEHICLE IS DECIDED (4)	3. LEGISLATIVE CHANGE RECOMMENDED (10)	4. OPTIONS ANALYSIS TO BE COMPLETED (6)
<p>2015/00 Commencement Date (completed)</p> <p>2015/30 Period of lapse of benefit applications</p> <p>2015/32 The 'Nature of Offense' for Warrant to Arrest data -match between Ministry of Justice and MSD</p> <p>2015/24 Childcare Assistance - Incorrect reference to CE of CYF rather than MSD in the regulations</p> <p>2015/05 Reasons for benefit obligation failure not clearly specified in sanctions letters</p> <p>2015/31 Correcting Special Needs Grants income test</p> <p>2015/20 Chief Executive power to grant Emergency Benefit</p> <p>2015/08 Inconsistent treatment of lump sum overseas pension payments</p> <p>2015/13 Re-application of benefit and its effect on sanctions for clients who have failed their obligations</p> <p>2015/15 Overseas travel over Christmas or New Year period</p> <p>-----</p> <p>2015/14 Warrants to Arrest 10 day notifications (0-\$)</p> <p>2015/27 Drug testing reimbursement - 'set rate' or 'actual and reasonable' rate to be used</p> <p>2015/25 Drug testing - storage of drug samples for future evidential testing</p> <p>2015/26 Drug testing - additional evidential testing costs incurred by clients</p> <p>2015/11 NZ & UK information exchange regarding Special Banking Option overseas pension refunds (0-\$\$)</p> <p>2015/06 Treatment of ACC weekly child compensation and ACC childcare payment</p>	<p>2015/04 Social Security Appeal Authority decision on review or appeal rights</p> <p>2015/09 Treatment of holiday pay in the Netherlands Old Age pension</p> <p>2015/18 Money on payment card when YP / YPP stops</p> <p>2015/01 High Court decision on Terminal Benefit and impact on Funeral Grant (0-\$)</p>	<p>2015/16 Amending SNG Welfare Programme to include New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension as income (0-\$)</p> <p>MINISTERIAL DIRECTION</p> <p>2015/17 Advance payment of Benefits to include or exclude supplementary assistance</p> <p>2016/34 Debt Recovery</p> <p>REGULATIONS</p> <p>2015/03 Income exemption regulations - proceeds from the sale of the family home</p> <p>2015/19 Youth Service - recognition of previous budgeting programmes</p> <p>2015/28 Income exemptions regulations to include income from power trusts</p> <p>2015/29 Income exemptions regulations to include Funded Family Care payments</p> <p>POSSIBLE PRIMARY LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS</p> <p>2015/10 Non-deductible parts of overseas pension paid into Special Banking Option</p> <p>2015/07 Treatment of the voluntary components of overseas pensions</p> <p>2015/12 Overseas pension - notification of exchange rate</p>	<p>2015/21 Payment of inaccurate Accommodation Supplement entitlements (0-\$\$\$) (this is being addressed through separate Cabinet paper)</p> <p>2015/22 Treatment of Special Benefit clients who are being 'grandparented' vs Temporary Additional Support (0-\$\$)</p> <p>2016/33 Timing of changes to Student Allowance rates (0-\$\$\$)</p> <p>2015/02 Entitlement to Childcare Assistance and Child Disability Allowance in cases of shared childcare</p> <p>2015/23 Overseas absence - Notifying current absence when there are humanitarian reasons</p> <p>N/A Treatment of lump sum payments made due to past error (this is being addressed through separate Cabinet paper)</p>
TIMELINE			
<p>Implementation by end of August 2016</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Implementation by December 2016</p>	<p>Implementation by end of August 2016 (dependent on date of legislation)</p>	<p>Recommendations by end of August 2016 (implemented as per current legislative programme)</p>	<p>Options analysis by end of August 2016</p>
REPORTING			
<p>Weekly progress updates and/or decision papers (as finalised)</p>			<p>Decision Paper end of August 2016 STR discussion document end of September 2016</p>

Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege

Section 9(2)(h) Legal professional privilege



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