



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Ensuring Continued Eligibility for Social Security Assistance for Those Affected by the Christchurch Mosques Terror Attack

Portfolio                      Social Development

On 1 April 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that following the Christchurch Mosques terror attack on 15 March 2019, individuals, international governments, communities and businesses have been providing donations to assist people affected, including through crowd funding platforms and gifts;
- 2        **noted** that some of the people affected by the attack will be receiving social security assistance of some kind, however, at this current time we cannot identify exact numbers of people who are impacted;
- 3        **noted** that the financial donations and gifts received by people affected by the attack would currently be treated as cash assets or income when determining eligibility for other government assistance and may impact:
  - 3.1      entitlement to financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Development;
  - 3.2      access to long-term residential care;
  - 3.3      eligibility to Public Housing and Income Related Rent;
- 4        **agreed** to amend the Social Security Regulations 2018 and the Residential Care and Disability Support Services Regulations 2018 to exempt gifts or donations made in relation to the Christchurch terrorist attack and any income derived from them, from cash assets and income tests for financial assistance for a period of 12 months;
- 5        **authorised** the submission of the following Amendment Regulations to the Executive Council to give effect to the proposal referred to above:
  - 5.1      the Social Security (Cash Assets and Income Exemptions— Christchurch Mosques Attack Support Payments) Amendment Regulations 2019 [PCO 22056/2.0];
  - 5.2      the Residential Care and Disability Support Services (Exempt Assets—Christchurch Mosques Attack Support Payments) Amendment Regulations 2019 [PCO 22057/2.0];
- 6        **noted** that a waiver of the 28-day rule is sought on the grounds that the Amendment Regulations confer only benefits for those affected by them;

- 7 **agreed** to a waiver of the 28-day rule so that the Amendment Regulations can come into force on 2 April 2019;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for Social Development to report back to Cabinet after one month on the number of affected people eligible for the exemption.

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Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Social Development