



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Approach to Improving Social Cohesion and Public Engagement

Portfolio **Associate Social Development and Employment**

On 19 May 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that in September 2019, SWC noted that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had been asked to review evidence on social inclusion, identify work underway across government and provide advice on potential interventions, and agreed to leverage some existing interventions to strengthen social cohesion [SWC-19-MIN-0126];
- 2 **noted** that in December 2020, Cabinet agreed to:
 - 2.1 funding of \$5.243 million for seven actions to improve social inclusion [CAB-20-MIN-0513]
 - 2.2 accept all findings and agreed in principle to all 44 recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch Masjidan (RCOI) report [CAB-20-MIN-0516];
- 3 **noted** that in March 2021, Cabinet agreed to a phased approach to the government response and endorsed the definition of a socially cohesive society, as outlined in the RCOI report, to build a society where all individuals and groups have a sense of belonging, inclusion, participation, recognition, and legitimacy[CAB-21-MIN-0049];

Recommendation 36

- 4 **noted** that the Ministry of Education has commenced implementation of the RCOI's recommendation 36 through a package of initiatives to support social and emotional learning in early learning services;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister of Education to make further implementation decisions regarding the package of initiatives proposed under RCOI's recommendation 36;

Community Engagement

- 6 **agreed** to the Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment's proposed approach to working with communities to deliver the RCOI social cohesion recommendations, as set out in the paper under SWC-21-SUB-0074, including:
 - 6.1 engage with communities to create a strategic framework based on a shared understanding of social cohesion that is focused on what unites us as people in New Zealand, while valuing diversity and taking tangible steps to become an inclusive society (RCOI recommendations 29, 31, and 37);
 - 6.2 build on the Government's existing work programme through tangible government actions in the short, medium and long-term to improve social cohesion;
 - 6.3 identify how to support and enable communities, the business sector, the cultural sector, and central and local government to undertake actions to improve social cohesion in their communities, including specific ways different stakeholders can contribute;
- 7 **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is working with Te Arawhiti and Te Puni Kōkiri, and seeking advice from MSD's Māori Reference Group to ensure more close collaboration with tangata whenua over the course of this work;
- 8 **noted** that MSD will engage on social cohesion alongside other policy proposals to respond to the RCOI including Incitement of Hatred and Discrimination;
- 9 **approved** the content of material for supporting engagement with communities, attached as Appendix 4 to the submission under SWC-21-SUB-0074;
- 10 **authorised** the Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment to approve the final version of the material for engagement with communities;

Next Steps

- 11 **noted** that the Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment will share information with communities about what was heard following the engagements;
- 12 **noted** that the Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment intends to provide a progress report to Cabinet as part of the RCOI response Cabinet report-back at the end of 2021.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the SWC Chair
Officials Committee for SWC