



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government Response to the Report of the Social Services Committee on the petition of Mark Sainsbury: Our elderly deserve a champion

Portfolio **Seniors**

On 1 July 2021, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 31 July 2020, the Social Services and Community Committee presented its report to the House of Representatives entitled “Petition of Mark Sainsbury: Our elderly deserve a champion”, that requested the implementation of a Commissioner for the Elderly to advocate for the elderly and to ensure that seniors’ rights are protected;
- 2 **noted** that the Social Services and Community Committee recommended that the government:
 - 2.1 investigate the establishment of a Commissioner for the Elderly;
 - 2.2 in its investigation, undertake a Regulatory Impact Analysis to identify overlaps with the health sector and other bodies to ensure that the role of the proposed Commissioner for the Elderly has a clear purpose, function and fit within the sector;
 - 2.3 in its investigation, determine:
 - 2.3.1 whether this role be established as a stand-alone Commissioner;
 - 2.3.2 whether this role be established under the umbrella of an existing agency;
 - 2.3.3 whether this role be established by broadening the role of the Retirement Commissioner, the Health and Disability Commissioner, or the Ombudsman;
- 3 **noted** that the government response provides that:
 - 3.1 government recognises and appreciates the merits in the recommendations of the Committee’s report;
 - 3.2 government intends to implement an Aged Care Commissioner within the office of the Health and Disability Commissioner;
 - 3.3 there is a programme of work underway to implement the Aged Care Commissioner that will have a responsibility to monitor aged care services and to ensure the rights of older people in aged care services are protected and respected;

- 4 **noted** that a total of \$8.1m was allocated to the implementation of an Aged Care Commissioner in Budget 2021;
- 5 **noted** that on 9 June 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee agreed to the establishment of an Aged Care Commissioner under the Health and Disability Commissioner [SWC-21-MIN-0089];
- 6 **approved** the government response, attached to the paper under LEG-21-SUB-0102, to the Report of the Social Services Committee entitled Petition of Mark Sainsbury: Our elderly deserve a champion;
- 7 **noted** that the government response must be presented to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for Seniors to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 252.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Ayesha Verrall

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG