



Report

Date: 6 May 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment

Copy: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Draft Cabinet paper on social cohesion and engagement material for agency and Ministerial consultation

Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper seeks your agreement to commence agency consultation on your draft social cohesion Cabinet paper and engagement material (attached). The draft Cabinet paper and engagement material have been updated following your meeting with officials on 4 May 2021.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **agree** that the Ministry of Social Development circulate your draft Cabinet paper on building social cohesion and the public engagement material for agency consultation on 7 May 2021

Agree / Disagree

- 2 **note** that the consultation will be from 7 – 12 May, with the final papers being lodged with the Cabinet Office on 14 May for the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee meeting on 19 May 2021

- 3 **direct** your Office to circulate the papers for Ministerial consultation for feedback by noon on 12 May 2021

Agree / Disagree

Molly Elliott
General Manager
Social Development Child and Youth Policy

Date

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Associate Minister for Social Development and
Employment

Date

Approach to building social cohesion and public engagement

- 2 Following your meeting with officials on 4 May 2021, we have updated your draft Cabinet paper on Government's approach to building social cohesion and public engagement. The engagement material appended to the Cabinet paper has also been updated.
- 3 If you agree, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) will circulate the draft Cabinet paper and engagement material to other government agencies for feedback on 7 May 2021. We are proposing that the consultation period runs from 7 – 12 May 2021. Over that period, we will liaise with your Office if any substantive issues are raised.
- 4 You will be provided with a final paper for your agreement on 13 May 2021 and the paper will need to be lodged with the Cabinet Office on 14 May for the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee meeting on 19 May 2021. We will work with your office to lodge the paper.
- 5 Your Office will manage the Ministerial consultation process. We would suggest that the paper and engagement material is circulated to Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee members and RCOI response Ministers for feedback by noon on 12 May 2021.

Summary of the Cabinet paper

- 6 The Cabinet paper seeks endorsement to your proposed approach to delivering on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the attack on the Christchurch masjidain recommendations to strengthen social cohesion. You are seeking agreement to:
 - engage with communities to create a shared social cohesion strategic framework that focuses on what unites us as New Zealanders, including meaningful measures of progress
 - developing and implementing tangible government actions to improve social cohesion over time. This builds on work that is already underway and that was started by the Prime Minister in 2019
 - supporting and enabling community leaders, the business sector, and local government to take action to build social cohesion in their communities.
- 7 The engagement process and timeframes for this work will be aligned with the Ministry of Justice's engagement on the Incitement of Hatred and Discrimination proposals.

Summary of the engagement material

- 8 The engagement material focuses on the following four areas:
 - What does social cohesion mean to you and what would Aotearoa New Zealand look like if social cohesion was improved? What does success look like to you?
 - How will we know if we are making progress? What changes might we see? Are there things we could measure?
 - We have done a review of the research about what works to strengthen social cohesion – this is summarised as the six ways of building social cohesion. We are keen to know whether these six ways look right to you and whether there are other things that might work.
 - What actions should government take or support to build better social cohesion, and who could be involved in the work?

- 9 Input and feedback from the public will help us to develop an Aotearoa New Zealand perspective on social cohesion, understand community priorities and develop a draft strategic framework and monitoring and evaluation regime.

Next steps

- 10 A proposed timeframe is set out below.

Date	Action
6 May	MSD provides Minister Radhakrishnan with draft Cabinet paper for agreement to circulate for agency consultation
7 May	Draft Cabinet paper to PMO, Ministerial and agency consultation
7 – 12 May	Agency and Ministerial consultation period (ends at noon on 12 May)
13 May	MSD incorporates remaining feedback and provides final papers to Minister Radhakrishnan for agreement to lodge
14 May	Lodge the final paper. MSD will work with the Minister’s Office.
19 May	Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee meeting
24 May	Cabinet

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