



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Welfare Overhaul Work Programme Update

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 22 September 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1 **noted** that in November 2019, the SWC endorsed the proposed short, medium, and long-term welfare overhaul work programme [SWC-19-MIN-0168];
- 2 **noted** that in 2020, the welfare overhaul work programme was adjusted to support the government response to COVID-19, and some initiatives were brought forward, deferred, or have not been fully implemented;
- 3 **noted** that in 2021, the government reaffirmed its commitment to progressing the welfare overhaul this parliamentary term and continued with major investment through Budget 2021;
- 4 **noted** that the renewed welfare overhaul work programme, attached under SWC-21-SUB-0128, balances immediate priorities for the welfare system, aligns with the recommendations made by the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, and includes areas of enduring and structural change to build the foundations for a different approach to welfare;
- 5 **noted** that the renewed welfare overhaul work programme will continue to focus on:
 - 5.1 resetting the foundations of the welfare system;
 - 5.2 improving employment support and services;
 - 5.3 improving supports and services for disabled people, people with health conditions, and their carers;
 - 5.4 enhancing the community sector;
- 6 **noted** that the renewed welfare overhaul work programme will also focus on:
 - 6.1 improving the income support system and addressing debt;
 - 6.2 reviewing Working for Families and the Accommodation Supplement;
 - 6.3 reviewing Childcare Assistance;
 - 6.4 reviewing obligations and sanctions;

- 7 **agreed** to the renewed welfare overhaul work programme to reflect the changes in context since November 2019;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment intends to report back to SWC on progress in the medium-term that will help inform a more detailed long-term welfare overhaul work programme;
- 9 **noted** that the Working for Families review is a key priority for this parliamentary term;
- 10 s(9)(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito Williams Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

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