



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Implementing the Community Connect Programme: Regulations Amendment

**Portfolio**                      **Social Development and Employment / Health**

On 1 June 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1        **noted** that Budget 2022 allocated \$105.140 million over four years to rollout nationwide the Community Connect 50 percent public transport concession for people on low-incomes [CAB-22-MIN-0129];
- 2        **noted** that Budget 2022 also allocated \$27.100 million to extend the current half- price public transport fares from 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022;
- 3        **noted** that as part of Budget 2022 decisions, the nationwide rollout of Community Connect has been directed to commence 1 September 2022;
- 4        **noted** that Community Services Cards (CSC) have been identified as the preferred mechanism to prove eligibility for reduced fares because they are an established method of reducing service costs for people on low-income;
- 5        **noted** that to facilitate the nationwide rollout of Community Connect by 1 September 2022, the most expeditious option is to amend the Health Entitlements Cards Regulations 1993 and the Social Security Regulations 2018;
- 6        **noted** that under Health Entitlements Cards Regulations 1993 and the Social Security Regulations 2018 only specified health providers and the Ministries of Health and Social Development may request or demand a CSC or SuperGold Card (SGC)/CSC for identification and eligibility purposes;
- 7        **agreed** to amend the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 and the Social Security Regulations 2018 to add public transport providers to those able to request or demand to see a CSC and SGC/CSC as evidence that the cardholder is eligible for public transport concessions;
- 8        **invited** the Ministers of Health and Social Development and Employment to instruct the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft the amendments to the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 and Social Security Regulations 2018 for consideration by the Cabinet Legislation Committee on 28 July 2022;

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Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

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