



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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2022 Annual General Adjustment - Blind Subsidy threshold indexation

Portfolio Social Development and Employment

On 10 March 2022, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s 9(2)(h) [REDACTED]
- 2 **noted** that for the 2022 Annual General Adjustment:
 - 2.1 the Blind Subsidy couple and single supplement thresholds will be indexed by net average wage growth as required by the Social Security Act 2018, and
 - 2.2 an additional discretionary top-up will be applied to the Blind Subsidy couple threshold, to pass on the policy increases to main benefit rates being progressed on 1 April 2022;
- 3 **noted** that, acting with Cabinet's delegated authority, the Ministers responsible for the Finance, Children, Housing, Education, Social Development and Employment, Health and Veterans portfolios have approved the new rate of the Blind Subsidy couple threshold [CAB Min (02) 7/1A];
- 4 **noted** that, acting with Cabinet's delegated authority, the Ministers of Finance and Social Development and Employment, approved the new rate of the Blind Subsidy single supplement threshold [CAB Min (02) 7/1A];
- 5 **noted** that there are currently no recipients of the Blind Subsidy and therefore no fiscal implications to paragraph 2;
- 6 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

- 7 **noted** that, acting with Cabinet's delegated authority, the Ministers of Finance and Social Development and Employment agreed to index the Blind Subsidy thresholds, s 9(2)(f)(iv) by at least net average wage growth, consistent with the requirements of the Social Security Act 2018 [CAB Min (02) 7/1A];
- 8 **noted** that the Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order (No 2) 2022 will amend the Social Security Act 2018 with the indexed rates of the Blind Subsidy thresholds and this will take effect on 1 April 2022;
- 9 **noted** that a waiver to the 28-day rule is sought:
- 9.1 so that the amendments can come in to force on 1 April 2022;
- 9.2 on the grounds that the amendments only confer benefits to those affected;
- 10 **agreed** to waive the 28-day rule so that the Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order (No 2) 2022 can come in to force on 1 April 2022;
- 11 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order (No 2) 2022 [PCO 24610/6.0].

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Phil Twyford
Kieran McAnulty, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG