



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Responding to Sustained Demand for Access to Food and Other Essential Wellbeing Items

Portfolio                      Social Development and Employment

On 11 October 2021, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      funding of \$24.63 million has been allocated since 17 August 2021 to meet increased demand for support to access food and essential wellbeing items;
  - 1.2      due to demand, this funding has been exhausted;
- 2        **noted** that continued demand is anticipated over the next six weeks as families and individuals, particularly in Auckland, are managing multiple and complex needs arising from self-isolation and Alert Level restrictions;
- 3        **agreed** to allocate funding of \$13.55 million for the six-week period from 9 October 2021 to 21 November 2021 to meet the anticipated demand for food and other essential wellbeing items;
- 4        **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 3 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development and Employment	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Community Support Services MCA					
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	13.551	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>13.551</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

- 5 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2021/22 in paragraph 4 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 6 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 4 above be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund established as part of Budget 2020;
- 7 **directed** officials to report back to the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment on:
- 7.1 how prior funding for community needs has been allocated;
  - 7.2 a costing model for resurgence-related community needs funding, with clear and consistent assumptions;
  - 7.3 the need for additional funding to address community need directly relating to resurgence related restrictions;

### **Community Connection Service**

- 8 **noted** that the Community Connection Service has flexibly responded to the needs of people highly impacted by COVID-19, particularly those self-isolating or in MIQ, and will require additional funding beyond 21 November 2021 to continue its impact;
- 9 **invited** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to report back to Cabinet on 15 November 2021 with a proposal to expand the Community Connection Service to help meet ongoing demand among diverse communities.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet