



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure: Approval of Government Response

Portfolio **Children**

On 5 May 2022, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 11 February 2022, the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC) presented its report to the House entitled: International treaty examination of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure [OPCP];
- 2 **noted** that the FADTC recommended that the government consider ways resources can be made available to support individuals or groups that may wish to bring a claim to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child if New Zealand accedes to the OPCP;
- 3 **noted** that the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) International Human Rights Governance Group is the central point of New Zealand's National Mechanism for Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up on New Zealand's international human rights obligations and reporting requirements for United Nations (UN) Treaty bodies;
- 4 **noted** that the DCE International Human Rights Governance Group has a Cabinet mandate to consider work relating to UN Treaty Body processes;
- 5 **approved** the proposed government response, attached to the paper under LEG-22-SUB-0050, to the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, accepting its recommendation;
- 6 **noted** that in accepting the recommendation, the government response clarifies that the government will also consider whether resources should be made available to support individuals or groups that may wish to bring a claim to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child if New Zealand accedes to the OPCP;
- 7 **agreed** that the FADTC recommendation be added to the work programme of the DCE International Human Rights Governance Group;
- 8 **noted** that accepting the FADTC recommendation does not commit the government to future policy changes or funding in this area;
- 9 **noted** that the government response must be presented to the House by 9 May 2022;
- 10 **invited** the Minister for Children to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 252;

- 11 **invited** the Minister for Children to write to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee to notify the committee of the response.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Kieran McAnulty, MP (Senior Government Whip)

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG