



Coversheet

Extending the Experience Pathway for Social Worker Registration, and Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Minister for Social Development and Employment

These documents have been proactively released.

9 February 2023, Cabinet paper – Extending the Experience Pathway for Social Worker Registration

15 February 2023, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute SWC-23-MIN-0002, Cabinet Office.

29 March 2023, Cabinet paper – Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction.

6 April 2023, Cabinet Legislation Committee Minute LEG-23-MIN-0030, Cabinet Office.

The papers sought Cabinet agreement to delay the repeal of the experience pathway to social worker registration to 28 February 2028 through the Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. This amendment will allow people to continue to apply to register as a social worker using their practical experience to demonstrate they meet the competency criteria set by the Social Workers Registration Board.

The experience pathway was due to be repealed on 28 February 2024 and more time is needed for the sector to respond to the recent extension of the social work pay equity settlement to the Government-funded sector. The pay equity extension creates an incentive for people to apply to register as a social worker. Delaying the repeal of the experience pathway also allows time for strategic work considering entry pathways into the social work sector.

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it. This is the key to the redaction code used for this release:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) - the confidentiality of advice under active consideration.

The following documents that accompanied the Cabinet paper are already public:

- *Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill*
www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2023/0246/7.0/whole.html#LMS831806
- *Disclosure statement: Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill*, which outlines a range of information to support and enhance the Parliamentary and public scrutiny of the Bill.
<http://legislation.govt.nz/disclosure.aspx?type=bill&subtype=government&year=2023&no=246>

Please note –

Following clarifications are required in the Cabinet paper *Extending the Experience Pathway for Social Worker Registration*:

- The views noted in paragraph 33 relating to sector consultation ‘They are strongly supportive of a time-limited extension...’ refer to those of Tangata Whenua SWA and SSPA, and not necessarily the sector as a whole. The sector was broadly supportive of a time-limited extension to the experience pathway.
- The footnote in paragraph 33 currently reads as ‘The Social Work Alliance is a cross-sector representative body convened by SWRB and includes...’. The SWRB is not a convener of the Social Work Alliance, but a member of the alliance.
- The footnote in paragraph 33 currently notes New Zealand Public Service Association as a member of the Social Work Alliance. The New Zealand Public Service Associate does not have a representative in the alliance.

The Cabinet paper *Extending the Experience Pathway for Social Worker Registration* also has the following typographical errors:

- The footnote in paragraph 33: ‘Te Toitū Waiora’ should be ‘Toitū te Waiora’.
- In paragraph 55: ‘the Child and Poverty Reduction Group’ should be ‘the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group’.

Following clarification is required in the Cabinet paper *Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction*:

- The footnote in paragraph 24 currently notes New Zealand Public Service Association as a member of the Social Work Alliance. The New Zealand Public Service Associate does not have a representative in the alliance.

The Cabinet paper *Social Workers Registration Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction* also has the following typographical errors:

- In paragraph 23: ‘Te Whatū Ora’ should be ‘Te Whatu Ora’.
- The footnote in paragraph 24 ‘Te Toitū Waiora’ should be ‘Toitū te Waiora’.

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