



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Annual General Adjustment 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Social Development and Employment**

On 22 February 2024, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in March 2002, Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and the Ministers responsible for New Zealand Superannuation, social security benefits and allowances, the Community Services Card, Student Allowances, and War Pensions and Allowances to jointly approve adjustments to rates and thresholds [CAB Min (02) 7/1A];
- 2        **noted** that the Ministers responsible for the Finance, Housing, Health, Social Development and Employment, Tertiary Education and Skills, Veterans, and Children portfolios have approved new rates of New Zealand Superannuation, benefits, Student Allowances, Foster Care Allowance, and new rates and thresholds for allowances and supplementary assistance;
- 3        **noted** that the Social Security (Benefits Adjustment) and Income Tax (Minimum Family Tax Credit) Amendment Bill must be enacted before the Orders in Council and Amendment Regulations listed below can be submitted to the Executive Council;
- 4        **noted** that the Orders in Council and Amendment Regulations come into force on 1 April 2024 and will:
  - 4.1        increase the rates of main benefits, Student Allowances, Orphan's Benefit, Unsupported Child's Benefit, Foster Care Allowance, benefits payable to long-term hospital patients, and New Zealand Superannuation, to comply with the statutory requirement to adjust the rates to reflect the 4.66 percent increase in the Consumers Price Index (All Groups) over the previous year;
  - 4.2        increase rates and thresholds of allowances and various forms of supplementary assistance in line with the 4.66 percent increase in the Consumers Price Index (All Groups) over the previous year;
  - 4.3        increase income thresholds for Disability Allowance and the Community Services Card by applying the 4.66 percent increase in the Consumers Price Index (All Groups) over the previous year;
  - 4.4        increase Childcare Assistance and hardship assistance income thresholds to reflect the 5.28 percent increase in the net average wage over the previous year [CAB-21-MIN-0116.27 and CAB-22-MIN-0129];
  - 4.5        correct a minor and inconsequential error in the Student Allowance Regulations 1998;

- 5 **noted** that a further adjustment to the net weekly couple amount of New Zealand Superannuation will not be required in the 2024 Annual General Adjustment, as the 4.66 percent Consumers Price Index (All Groups) adjustment will see this amount exceeding the minimum 66 percent of net average wage statutory requirement;
- 6 **authorised** the submission of the following Orders and Amendment Regulations to the Executive Council:
- 6.1 Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order 2024 [PCO 25879/5.0];
  - 6.2 Social Security Amendment Regulations 2024 [PCO 25883/5.0];
  - 6.3 Student Allowances Amendment Regulations 2024 [PCO 25886/5.0];
  - 6.4 Oranga Tamariki (Minimum Rates of Payment for Board and Lodgings) Order 2024 [PCO 25885/5.0];
  - 6.5 Health Entitlement Cards Amendment Regulations 2024 [PCO 25884/2.0];
  - 6.6 Residential Care and Disability Support Services Amendment Regulations 2024 [PCO 25882/2.0].

Rebecca Davies  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Andrew Bayly  
Scott Simpson, MP  
Todd Stevenson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Leader of the House  
Office of the Minister of Revenue