



Coversheet

Social Security (Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing) Amendment Regulations 2020

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development

These documents have been proactively released.

13 February 2020, Social Security (Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing) Amendment Regulations 2020 Cabinet paper, Office of the Minister for Social Development

18 February 2020, Cabinet Legislation Committee Minute – Social Security (Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing) Amendment Regulations 2020 – LEG-20-MIN-0019 - Cabinet Office

24 February 2020, Minute of Decision: Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 21 February 2020 – CAB-20-MIN-0050 - Cabinet Office

Points to note on release of the contingency bid

Release of the bid is a condition of The Treasury's Regulation Impact Assessment process, as outlined in the Cabinet paper. There are some points to note about the release of this document:

- The table of overall estimates for the implementation of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG) (page 4) is out of date. The estimates were revised and replaced by in the Cabinet paper Aotearoa/New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan (para 66)
- The final system changes for implementation of the policy are noted as being implemented by June/July 2020 (page 2). They are being rolled out from this date.

Background

On 11 December 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee approved the Aotearoa/New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan Phase I (2020-2023) and to changes to the policy settings for EH SNGs.

The EH SNG policy changes introduce an emergency housing contribution made by clients granted an EH SNG and provide MSD the discretion to extend the duration of some EH SNGs in specified circumstances.

To enable the policy changes, amendments were required to the Social Security Regulations 2018. The Amendment Regulations can be found at:

<http://legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0020/7.0/d2154295e66.html>

Cabinet subsequently agreed to a number of temporary changes to MSD's operating model to facilitate responses to COVID-19. At this time, the commencement of the emergency housing contribution, was deferred to help free-up MSD's frontline resources to deliver responses to the pandemic. The contribution was originally intended to be effective from 30 March 2020. There will be further communication to clients and relevant stakeholders when the new date for the contribution to come into effect is confirmed.

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 codes used for this release:

- Section 9(2)(h) - legally privileged
- Section 9(2)(j) - to proceed without prejudice or disadvantage
- Section 9(2)(a) - privacy of natural persons
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) - the free and frank expression of opinions
- Out of scope - material unrelated to the information released.

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