



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

---

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

---

### Welfare Overhaul: Update on Progress and Long-Term Plan

**Portfolio**                      **Social Development**

On 6 November 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1        **noted** that on 9 May 2018, SWC noted that the Welfare Expert Advisory Group will contribute to realising the government's vision for the welfare system, which is to ensure people:
  - 1.1     have an adequate income and standard of living;
  - 1.2     are treated with and can live in dignity;
  - 1.3     are able to participate meaningfully in their communities;

[SWC-18-MIN-0050]
  
- 2        **noted** that on 15 April 2019, Cabinet agreed, in response to the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, to three priority areas in which to undertake immediate work:
  - 2.1     addressing financial support with a focus on child wellbeing;
  - 2.2     supporting people who are able to be earning, learning, caring and volunteering;
  - 2.3     improving access to affordable housing;

[CAB-19-MIN-0170]
  
- 3        **noted** that on 15 April 2019, Cabinet invited the Minister for Social Development to report back to SWC later in 2019 with an update on the priority areas for action and policy development, as well as a long-term comprehensive work programme [CAB-19-MIN-0170];
  
- 4        **endorsed** the proposed key features of the future state of the welfare system:
  - 4.1     underpinned by values relevant for New Zealand;
  - 4.2     enables individuals, families and whānau to thrive;
  - 4.3     adequately supports employment and training;
  - 4.4     recognises the value of unpaid work, such as caring and volunteering;
  - 4.5     takes a whole-of-community approach to working with partners;

- 5 **s 9(2)(f)(iv)**
- 6 **endorsed** the proposed short-term work programme, which will include work focused on:
- 6.1 reducing barriers to employment and training;
  - 6.2 better support for parents;
  - 6.3 ensuring income support is accessible;
  - 6.4 better support for disabled people and people with health conditions;
- 7 **endorsed** the proposed medium-term work programme, which will include work focused on:
- 7.1 resetting the foundations of the welfare system;
  - 7.2 increasing income support and addressing debt;
  - 7.3 improving and expanding employment services;
  - 7.4 improving supports and services for disabled people, people with health conditions and disabilities and their carers;
  - 7.5 enhancing the community sector;
- 8 **endorsed** the proposed long-term work programme, which will include work focused on:
- 8.1 simplifying the income support system;
  - 8.2 aligning the welfare system with other support systems;
  - 8.3 reviewing housing and childcare supports;
- 9 **invited** the Minister for Social Development to report-back to SWC with an engagement plan for the welfare overhaul work programme in early 2020;
- 10 **noted** that alongside the Welfare Overhaul, the Ministry for Social Development is developing the Te Pae Tawhiti investment case to help guide long-term investment and planning.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

---

**Hard-copy distribution (see over)**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Dr Megan Woods (part item)  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Kris Faafoi (part item)  
Hon Tracey Martin  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Poto Williams  
Jan Logie, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for SWC  
Office of the Chair

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister for Social Development