

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Social Development

Chair, Appointments and Honours Committee

WELFARE EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Proposal

- 1 This paper outlines my intention to appoint the following people as members of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group:
 - Professor Innes Asher
 - Kay Brereton
 - Dr Huhana Hickey
 - Trevor McGlinchey
 - Professor Tracey McIntosh
 - Dr Ganesh Nana
 - Phil O'Reilly
 - Robert Reid
 - Latayvia Tualasea Tautai, and
 - Charles Waldegrave.
- 2 Candidates will be appointed for a term of approximately ten months, commencing in May 2018 and expiring on 28 February 2019.

The Government has committed to an overhaul of the welfare system

- 3 This Government is committed to overhauling the welfare system to ensure it is accessible and fair for all New Zealanders.
- 4 Cabinet has agreed to establish a group of external experts, the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG), to assist with consideration of the overhaul work programme. The WEAG will have up to 11 members, including the Chair [SWC-18-Min-0016 refers].
- 5 On 28 March 2018, Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee agreed, with power to act, to appoint Professor Cynthia (Cindy) Kiro as the Chair of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group [APH-18-MIN-0032 refers].
- 6 Cabinet has invited me to report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee with the final Terms of Reference, following further engagement with the Chair [SWC-18-MIN-0016 refers]. The final version of the Terms of Reference is attached here, for the Committee's

information. I am seeking Cabinet agreement to these Terms through a companion paper to the Social Wellbeing Committee.

Comment

7 I intend to appoint the following people as members of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group:

- Professor Innes Asher
- Kay Brereton
- Dr Huhana Hickey
- Trevor McGlinchey
- Professor Tracey McIntosh
- Dr Ganesh Nana
- Phil O'Reilly
- Robert Reid
- Latayvia Tualasea Tautai, and
- Charles Waldegrave.

8 Details of the skills and experience that these members will bring to the WEAG are contained in the Candidate CV Forms attached to this paper, and are summarised below.

9 **Professor Innes Asher** is a Paediatrician, with vast experience of children and families interacting with the welfare system, and the broader determinants of well-being of children and families. Professor Asher has nearly three decades of global experience in health and wellbeing, as the Chair of the Global Asthma Network and the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood. She is currently employed as a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Auckland. In 2003, she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to Paediatrics, and in 2007 was awarded the Health Research Council Liley Medal for her research leadership. In 2017 she was appointed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an Expert on Chronic Respiratory Diseases within their inaugural Expert Panel on Non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Professor Asher is a committee member and health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group.

10 **Kay Brereton** is an experienced advocate for people within the welfare system. She is currently employed as a senior advocate at the Beneficiaries and Unwaged Workers Trust, whose aim is to ensure that all beneficiaries and those on low incomes receive all their entitlements. Ms Brereton is the Co-Convenor of the National Beneficiary Advocates Consultative Group, a group of experts on welfare issues which regularly consults with MSD. She coordinated the Benefit Rights Service at the Wellington People's Centre for 7 years, and has taught advocacy skills to groups of community workers throughout the country. She has extensive experience working directly with Work and Income clients assisting them to access their full and correct benefit entitlement, and to access their statutory review and appeal rights.

- 11 **Dr Huhana Hickey** (Ngāti Tahinga, Tainui, Whakatohea) has a long-standing interest in the human rights of people from marginal backgrounds and the consequences of discrimination and social oppression. She is a scholar of disabilities research and legal theory, and is noted for the breadth of her published cross-disciplinary research. Her work in advocacy spans over thirty years and her work with the United Nations Ad-hoc group prior to the signing of the UNCRPD has led to indigenous people with disabilities being included within the preamble of the convention. Huhana currently sits on the NZ Human Rights Review Tribunal and is the former Chair of the Auckland Council Disability Strategic Advisory Panel. As the recipient of a main benefit, Dr Hickey brings lived experience of the welfare system.
- 12 **Trevor McGlinchey** is currently the Executive Officer for the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services. He began his career as a freezing worker and has worked in numerous seasonal and other short-term industries. In 1986 Trevor started the Te Mahi o Waitaki Trust in Oamaru, this kaupapa Māori Trust developed and operated numerous social enterprises and community initiatives. In the late 90's Trevor joined the Public Service, where he eventually became the Southern Area Manager for the Tertiary Education Commission. In his community roles Trevor chairs Moeraki Ltd a marae based charitable company and Te Ana Whakairo Ltd a social enterprise based on Māori Tourism, he is also a Trustee of Ngā Tangata Microfinance Trust.
- 13 **Professor Tracey McIntosh** (Tūhoe) is a sociologist and Professor of Indigenous Studies and Co-Head of Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland. She has conducted research in the areas of Māori development, incarceration of Indigenous peoples and whānau poverty. Professor McIntosh's work seeks to find evidence based, culturally informed solutions to respond to critical social issues and ensure greater inter-generational flourishing. She is the former Co-Director of New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. As well as serving as the Co-Chair of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty she also serves on various government advisory boards and community and non-governmental agency boards particularly those that serve hard-to-reach sectors of our community.
- 14 **Dr Ganesh Nana** is currently the Chief Economist at BERL, having joined the company in 1998 as a Senior Economist. He has over 30 years of experience in the field of economics including business consulting, conference presentations, research, tutoring and lecturing in New Zealand and the UK. At BERL he has worked on a wide range of projects, including development strategies; cost-benefit analyses; labour market projections; infrastructure assessments; and examining policy options. Dr Nana's work is often related to the Māori economy, regional New Zealand and its economic development, and education and workforce training plans and programmes.
- 15 **Phil O'Reilly** has high-level experience working at the interface of government, business and communities, and has developed long-term working relationships at all levels in the business community as a previous Chief Executive of BusinessNZ. He is Chair of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD and is a former member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation. He is uniquely placed as a New Zealander at the leading edge of the global debate on issues such as the future of work, inequality, and productivity. In New Zealand he chaired the Green Growth Advisory Group and his membership of public and private advisory boards and committee appointments has spanned academia, research and development, business, labour and social development, and manufacturing and trade. He is currently Managing Director at Iron Duke Partners.

- 16 **Robert Reid** has over 40 years' experience in trade unions and in community employment development. Much of Robert's work has been with disadvantaged groups and has included work with Maori, Pacific Peoples and migrant communities. Mr Reid is currently Honorary President of FIRST Union, and served as the General Secretary of FIRST Union for 9 years until November 2017. Mr Reid was awarded the Prince Philip Industrial Relations Scholarship in 1984 to study the role of trade unions and local authorities in job creation at the Greater London Council. He was also part of the Beneficiary Advocates Advisory Group established by Hon Steve Maharey as Minister of Social Development from 1999 to 2002.
- 17 **Latayvia Tualasea Tautai** is a young Pacific leader from Auckland. In 2016, she was the head girl at Saint Dominic's College in Henderson and the winner of the National Council of Women's Year 13 School Girl Speech Competition. She is currently a second-year university student, studying on a University of Auckland Pacific Excellence scholarship towards conjoint Law and Arts Degrees, majoring in Pacific Studies and Political Studies. She has lived experience of the welfare system, growing up in a household with her mother receiving main benefits. Miss Tautai is an active volunteer in the Auckland region – volunteering at organisations including St Vincent De Paul, Mt Eden Prison, Auckland City Mission, and James Liston Hostel. She is the youth leader on the PACIFICA Inc West Auckland Executive.
- 18 **Charles Waldegrave** is the founder of the Family Centre 1979 and the Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit 1991. He has held several roles at the Family Centre and currently leads the Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit. Mr. Waldegrave co-leads the New Zealand Poverty Measurement Project and two current National Science Challenge projects (Ageing Well and Building Better Homes). He has led or jointly led research, evaluation, service and teaching contracts with multiple government agencies. He has written many research articles and specialises in social policy regarding youth, ageing people, urban and rural projects, and poverty, among others.

Representativeness of appointments

- 19 I am satisfied that the proposed members bring a range of skills and expertise – including lived experience of the welfare system, and in the areas of employment, economics, and research and analysis. These competencies are critical to this important work. I am also satisfied that the group provides diverse perspectives, including representation of Māori, Pacific People, and disabled people.
- 20 The WEAG will also have the ability to seek additional advice to provide complimentary specialist perspectives to their work.

Remuneration

- 21 The Board is classified as a Group 4 Level 1 Governance Board under the Cabinet Fees Framework.
- 22 The fee for members is \$800 per day, which is consistent with the Cabinet Fees Framework.

Term of appointment

- 23 Members will be appointed for a period of approximately ten months, commencing in May 2018 and expiring on 28 February 2019.

24 I note that Cabinet had previously agreed that the WEAG would operate until 21 December 2018 [SWC-18-Min-0016 refers]. Given the complexity of the work involved, I have decided to extend the term of the WEAG to provide them with further time to complete their work.

25 Professor Cindy Kiro has agreed to extend her appointment to 28 February 2019.

Appointment process and consultation

26 I can confirm that an appropriate process has been followed in selecting the proposed appointee, in terms of the State Services Commission appointment guidelines. I have undertaken Ministerial and cross-Party consultation, informed by consideration of the scope of the work and the skills that will be required by members of the WEAG.

Conflicts of interest

27 I can confirm that appropriate enquiries concerning conflicts of interest have been carried out, in accordance with the State Services Commission appointment guidelines, to identify any conflict of interest that could reasonably be identified.

28 Dr Huhana Hickey has noted that she is currently receiving a Supported Living Payment benefit, and has received approval for a special exemption of income under the Social Security Act section 66A.¹ My view is that the WEAG will benefit from the perspective of a current welfare system client during their discussions. Dr Hickey will work closely with the Chair to identify any potential conflicts as they arise and agree on proposed mitigation strategies. This may include recusing herself from discussions on certain subject areas.

29 Latayvia Tualasea Tautai is a member of the Kelston Labour Local Electorate Committee, which is the electorate I am the representative for. My view is that Latayvia will bring a unique perspective to the Group, as a young Pacific leader with lived experience of the welfare system. Latayvia will work closely with the Chair to identify any potential conflicts as they arise and agree on proposed mitigation strategies. This may include recusing herself from discussions on certain subject areas.

30 No other substantive conflicts of interest have been identified by members.

31 I note that the WEAG is intended to be an advisory body and will have no decision-making powers or rights.

32 I expect that the WEAG will put in place appropriate procedures, including a register of interests, to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest that may arise are identified and managed effectively. Where members have recognised the potential for a conflict of interest, they have agreed to proactively work with the Chair to address these if they arise.

Timing and Publicity

33 I intend to issue a press release announcing the membership of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group and releasing the final Terms of Reference for the group in due course.

¹ Section 66a is an incentive for the personal effort of a severely disabled person to participate or continue in employment. Discretion can be used to disregard all or part of any income earned from employment as chargeable income for benefit purposes.

Recommendation

- 34 The Minister for Social Development recommends that the Committee:
- 34.1 note that the Government has committed to an overhaul of the welfare system
- 34.2 note my intention to appoint the following people as members of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group:
- Professor Innes Asher
 - Kay Brereton
 - Dr Huhana Hickey
 - Trevor McGlinchey
 - Professor Tracey McIntosh
 - Dr Ganesh Nana
 - Phil O'Reilly
 - Robert Reid
 - Latayvia Tualasea Tautai, and
 - Charles Waldegrave.
- 34.3 note members will be appointed for a term of ten months, commencing in May 2018 and ending on 28 February 2019
- 34.4 note the Chair of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, Professor Cynthia Kiro, has agreed to an extension of her term from 21 December 2018 to 28 February 2019
- 34.5 note that members' fees will be paid in line with the Cabinet Fees Framework
- 34.6 note I am seeking Cabinet agreement to the final Terms of Reference in a companion paper to the Social Wellbeing Committee.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Social Development