



12 JUN 2018



Dear 

On 28 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Could you provide me with the paper CBC (08) 52 and CAB Min (08) 7/1A.*

Please find the two documents you have requested enclosed.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

James Poskitt  
**General Manager, Community and Families Policy**



# Cabinet

## 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.*

Minister for Social Development and Employment

### Copies to:

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Finance  
Hon Jim Anderton  
Minister of Justice  
Minister of Education  
Minister of Health  
Minister for Disability Issues  
Secretary, CBC

### Vocational Services for Very High Needs School Leavers

On 3 March 2008, following reference from the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC), Cabinet:

#### Background

- 1 **noted** that since 1999, the government has provided funding through Vote Social Development for the Ministry of Social Development to purchase community participation type vocational services for students with very high needs when they leave school at age 21;
- 2 **noted** that the policy limiting eligibility for this funding to school leavers aged 21 is outdated and hinders young people with high needs from making a smooth transition from school to the adult world at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances;

#### Amended purpose

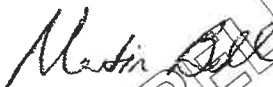
- 3 **agreed** that the amended purpose for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme will be to provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers;
- 4 **agreed** that the minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme be lowered from 21 years to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16 years);
- 5 **agreed** that the amended purpose and minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme take effect as soon as is practicable;


## Financial implications

- 6 **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (ex GST) in the funding allocated for very high needs school leavers in 2008/09, as there have been some early exits of people from the programme;
- 7 **agreed** that the under-spend be reallocated to fund the policy change in 2008/09;
- 8 **noted** that any increase in the numbers of people accessing the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme in 2009/10 and outyears will be addressed in future baseline forecasting changes [CAB Min (02) 12/8(48)];
- 9 **noted** that the policy change will result in a reduction in costs in Vote Education as some very high needs students transition from school earlier;
- 10 **noted** that the Ministry of Education is discussing with Treasury adjustments to the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme baseline to take account of the estimated increased outflow to Social Development-funded services;

## Publicity

- 11 **noted** that the policy change will be publicised through the disability issues newsletter *Participate*, and the Office for Disability Issues' website and email update, and that the Ministries of Social Development and Education will inform schools and their families and carers.



 Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (08) 64; CBC Min (08) 5/11; CBC (08) 52

*Secretary's Note: This minute replaces CBC Min (08) 5/11. Cabinet amended paragraph 5.*



MSD  
In Confidence

# Cabinet Business Committee

CBC (08) 52

22 February 2008

Copy No: 35

*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.*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Vocational Services for Very High Needs School Leavers</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	This paper seeks agreement to amend the purpose of the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme, and to lower the minimum age for eligibility for the programme from 21 years of age to the minimum school leaving age.
<b>Previous Consideration</b>	None indicated.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Funding is provided to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to purchase vocational services for disabled students with very high needs when they leave school at age 21. Such students have extreme or severe difficulty with learning, hearing, vision, mobility, language use or social communication, and throughout their schooling they require high levels of specialist teacher and other interventions to access the curriculum.</p> <p>The vocational services purchased by MSD provide the school leavers with support to participate in community-based activities or employment, depending on their individual circumstances. As at 1 January 2008, 459 people were receiving services via this programme.</p> <p>The 21-year age limit hinders some young people with very high needs from making a smooth transition from school to a vocational service at an appropriate age. These young people are obliged to remain at school until they are 21 to qualify for the funding, instead of making the transition at a similar age to their peers.</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the purpose of the very high needs school leaver programme to the following: <i>To provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers.</i></p> <p>It is also proposed that the minimum age for eligibility for the programme be lowered from 21 years to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16).</p>

These changes will ensure that very high needs students who leave school before age 21 can access support to participate in their community or employment when they leave school. This is consistent with the Working New Zealand objective of supporting people, including those with a significant disability, to work to the extent they are able. It will also remove a potential inconsistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

There is a risk that lowering the minimum age for eligibility for the programme could be seen as indicating that it is appropriate for very high needs students to leave school early. The expectation is that very high needs students will be encouraged and supported to remain in education, and to realise their educational potential, as other students are.

**Baseline Implications**

The impact of the proposed change is estimated to be \$300,000 in 2008/09 and \$600,000 in 2009/10.

MSD estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (excluding GST) in 2008/09, as there have been some early exits of people from the programme and some eligible school leavers have not accessed the assistance. It is proposed to reallocate this under-spend to fund the policy change in the short-term. Any net increase in spending in 2009/10 and outyears would be included in future baseline forecasting changes.

There will be a reduction in costs in Vote Education. Education and Treasury officials are discussing the appropriate adjustments to the ORRS baseline.

**Legislative Implications**

None.

**Timing Issues**

The amended purpose and minimum age for eligibility for the programme will take effect from 1 April 2008.

**Announcement**

The Minister for Social Development and Employment will inform the disability sector through the newsletter *Participate*. MSD will publicise the change through the Office for Disability Issues' website and email update, and MSD and the Ministry of Education will inform schools, students with very high needs and their families and carers.

**Consultation**

Paper prepared by MSD. Education, Health, Treasury, Justice and Office for Disability Issues have been consulted.

The Minister for Social Development and Employment indicates that the Ministers of Finance, Education and Health have been consulted, and that discussion is not required with the government caucuses or with other parties represented in Parliament.

**The Minister for Social Development and Employment recommends that the Committee:**

**Background**

- 1 note that since 1999, the government has provided funding through Vote Social Development for the Ministry of Social Development to purchase community participation type vocational services for students with very high needs when they leave school at age 21;
- 2 note that the policy limiting eligibility for this funding to school leavers aged 21 is outdated and hinders young people with high needs from making a smooth transition from school to the adult world at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances;

**Amended purpose**

- 3 agree that the amended purpose for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme will be to provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers;
- 4 agree that the minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme be lowered from 21 to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16);
- 5 agree that the amended purpose and minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme take effect from 1 April 2008;

**Financial Implications**

- 6 note that the Ministry of Social Development estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (ex GST) in the funding allocated for very high needs school leavers in 2008/09, as there have been some early exits of people from the programme;
- 7 agree that the under-spend be reallocated to fund the policy change in 2008/09;
- 8 note that any increase in the numbers of people accessing the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme in 2009/10 and outyears will be addressed in future baseline forecasting changes [CAB Min (02) 12/8(48)];
- 9 note that the policy change will result in a reduction in costs in Vote Education as some very high needs students transition from school earlier;
- 10 note that the Ministry of Education is discussing with Treasury adjustments to the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme baseline to take account of the estimated increased outflow to Social Development-funded services;

## Publicity

- 11 note that the policy change will be publicised through the disability issues newsletter *Participate*, and the Office for Disability Issues' website and Email Update, and that the Ministries of Social Development and Education will inform schools and their families and carers.

Janine Harvey  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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### Copies to:

Cabinet Business Committee  
Chief Executive, DPMC  
Director, PAG, DPMC  
PAG Subject Advisor, DPMC  
Secretary to the Treasury  
Secretary for Justice  
Chief Executive, Ministry of Education  
Director-General of Health  
Chief Executive, MSD  
Chief Executive, MSD (Disability Issues)  
Minister of State Services  
State Services Commissioner

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Chair  
Cabinet Business Committee

## VOCATIONAL SERVICES FOR VERY HIGH NEEDS SCHOOL LEAVERS

### Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to amend the purpose of the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme, and lower the minimum age for eligibility for the programme from 21 years of age to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16). Lowering the eligibility age would remove the necessity for very high needs students to remain at school two to three years after their peers have left in order to qualify for the programme. Instead, the students would be able to make the transition from school at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. The change would achieve two outcomes. It would ensure that very high needs students who leave school before age 21 can access support to participate in their community or employment when they leave school, and remove a potential inconsistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

### Executive summary

- 2 The government provides funding through Vote Social Development for the Ministry of Social Development to purchase vocational services for disabled students with very high needs when they leave school at age 21. The vocational services provide the school leavers with support to participate in community-based activities or employment depending on their individual circumstances and goals.
- 3 The policy limiting eligibility for this funding to school leavers aged 21 or over is outdated and hinders some young people with very high needs from making a smooth transition from school to a vocational service at an appropriate age. Very high needs students are obliged to remain at school until they are 21, to qualify for this funding, instead of making the transition at a similar age to their peers. Students who leave school earlier than 21 for any reason are not eligible for the funding, even if it is determined later that they need additional support to access a vocational service.
- 4 I propose that the purpose of the very high needs school leaver programme be changed to "provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers". The amended wording will make it clear that the additional support is not only available for community participation activities but is also available if the person chooses and is able to undertake employment-related activities. This change is consistent with the Working New Zealand objective of supporting people, including those with significant disability, to work to the extent they are able.
- 5 I also propose that the minimum age for eligibility for the programme be lowered from 21 to the minimum school leaving age. This is consistent with the criteria for other vocational programmes delivered through the Ministry of Social Development, and would allow students to make the transition from school at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. The change would achieve two outcomes. It would ensure that very high needs students who leave school before age 21 can access support to participate in their



community or employment when they leave school, and remove a potential inconsistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

- 6 There is some risk that setting the minimum age for eligibility for this programme at the minimum school leaving age may be seen as indicating that it is appropriate for very high needs students to leave school early. The expectation is that very high needs students will be encouraged and supported to remain in education, and realise their educational potential, as other students are. This will be reflected in any communications about the programme. The Ministry of Social Development will discuss each application with the student and their family or carers to ensure they have accurate information about the types of post-school services available, and are able to make an informed decision about the best option for their future.
- 7 It is difficult to predict how many very high needs students will want to access a vocational service before age 21 if the minimum age is lowered, but the number is expected to be small. This will mean a slight increase in demand for new places on the programme from students aged under 21 in the next two to three years, and a corresponding reduction in numbers of students seeking to access the programme at age 21.
- 8 The impact of the policy change in Vote Social Development Non-Departmental Output Class: Vocational Services for People with Disabilities is estimated to be<sup>1</sup>:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 and outyears
Net additional places	20	40	0	0
Net additional expenditure (\$million GST excl)	0.300	0.600	-	-

- 9 The Ministry of Social Development estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (ex GST) in the funding currently allocated for very high needs school leavers in 2008/09, as there have been some early exits of people from the programme and some eligible school leavers have not accessed the assistance. It is proposed that the under-spend be reallocated to fund the policy change in the short-term. The impact on 2009/10 and outyear funding is uncertain and depends on demand factors. Any net increase in spending in 2009/10 and outyears would be included in future baseline forecasting changes.
- 10 The policy change will result in a reduction in costs in Vote Education as some very high needs students transition from school earlier. The Ministry of Education is discussing with Treasury adjustments to the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme (ORRS) baseline to take account of the estimated increased outflow to Social Development-funded services.

## Background

- 11 Since 1999 the government has provided funding through Vote Social Development for the Ministry of Social Development to purchase vocational services for school leavers with very high needs.
- 12 To be eligible for the funding, the school leaver must have been assessed while at school as meeting the very high needs criteria under the Ministry of Education's Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme (ORRS) and be leaving school at age 21. Students in the

<sup>1</sup> The estimate assumes (based on enquiries received) that each year 20 students leave school on average 2 years earlier than age 21, and that there is a corresponding reduction in the numbers of students who access the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme at age 21.

very high needs group have extreme or severe difficulty with learning, hearing, vision, mobility, language use or social communication. Throughout their schooling they require high levels of specialist teacher and other specialist interventions to access the curriculum. They are entitled under section 9 of the Education Act 1989 to remain at secondary school until they are 21. When they leave school they generally need support to participate in the wider community.

- 13 Eligibility for the vocational services funding programme is limited to very high needs students who stay at school until they are 21. Students who leave school earlier, for any reason, are not eligible for the funding even if it is determined later that they need additional support to access a vocational service.
- 14 As at 1 January 2008, 459 people are receiving services via the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme. The funding of about \$17,000 (GST incl) per person per annum is generally used to pay non-government agencies (e.g. IHC's IDEA Services) to support the school leavers to participate in community-based activities. The community participation services are expected to be tailored to each individual but may include:
  - voluntary work
  - active participation in activities, services and facilities that are part of the daily lives of New Zealanders
  - support to people to achieve valued roles in the community (eg student, team mate, colleague, volunteer worker, teacher, parent)
  - activities that develop skills for daily living and participating in the community.
- 15 Each year between 50 and 80 very high needs students leave school at age 21. The Ministry of Education assists the Ministry of Social Development to inform the schools, eligible students and their families or carers about the very high needs school leavers vocational services programme.
- 16 The experience to date has been that almost all school leavers eligible for the funding take it up so that they can access community participation services. The exit rate from the programme is low (approx 5% per annum) as the majority of those accessing the programme require long-term assistance.
- 17 The table below shows the projected number of very high needs students by age at 31 December 2008.

	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	20 years	21 years	TOTAL
<b>Special schools</b>	82	74	56	46	47	34	339
<b>Schools</b>	68	53	55	59	51	43	329
<b>Total</b>	150	127	111	105	98	77	668

- 18 Not all students in the very high needs ORRS category want to access community participation activities after they leave school. Students who are verified as having very high needs because they have, for instance, a severe physical or sensory impairment, but no other impairments, sometimes seek support to access employment.

**Comment***Current Policy is Hindering Age-Appropriate Transitions*

- 19 The funding for very high needs school leavers was established in 1999 in response to concern about the absence of services for an increasing number of young people with severe disabilities and complex support needs leaving school. Prior to this, young adults with high needs had mainly received services via residential institutions, or their families had struggled to care for them full-time at home. With the trend towards mainstreaming in education, and the closure of many institutions, the demand grew for services that would support young adults with high needs to live and participate fully in their communities. However, few of the existing vocational and day service providers were willing or able to accommodate these young people without additional funding to meet the costs of higher levels of personal care or support needed.
- 20 Cabinet agreed on 12 April 1999 that the new individual funding would be available only to very high needs students who left school at age 21 [CAB (99)M10/5 (34) refers].<sup>2</sup> The assumptions underlying this decision were that the students receiving special education could continue at school until they were 21, and that the most pressing need was for services for students with severe disabilities and complex needs who had to leave school at age 21 and had no other options.
- 21 The policy limiting eligibility for this funding to school leavers aged 21 is outdated and inconsistent with the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the Outcomes Framework for Disability Supports. It hinders young people with high needs from making a smooth transition from school to vocational services at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances.
- 22 The Review of Long-term Disability Supports identified issues with youth transitions from school to the adult world as an area of critical concern. It found that young people with high needs were remaining at school as long as possible, not to improve their education, but because other options were not available. The Review report suggested that if the funding for very high needs school leavers was available at an earlier age it would enable some of these students to make the transition to the adult world at a more typical age.
- 23 Each year the Ministry of Social Development receives 15 to 20 enquiries on behalf of very high needs about accessing a vocational service before age 21. As there is currently no provision to purchase vocational services that can meet their support needs, some are obliged to remain at school until they turn 21, while others leave school and receive only limited or no service from vocational service providers. The IHC has made representations on this issue to Ministers and the Ministry of Social Development seeking an immediate change to the policy.

*Proposed Changes*

- 24 The current purpose of the programme is to provide funding for vocational services for very high needs students when they have to leave school at age 21. I propose that the purpose of the programme be amended to "provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers". The amended wording will make it clear

<sup>2</sup> At its meeting on 12 April 1999, Cabinet agreed to the appropriation in Vote Social Services of additional funding of \$1.463 million (GST inclusive) in 1999/2000 only, to be directed towards the purchase of vocational and day programmes for the 82 young adults who have been assessed by the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme of the Ministry of Education (ORS) as having severe disabilities, and who had by the end of the 1998 school year left school at age 21 [CAB 99M10/5 (34) refers].

that the additional support is not only available for community participation activities but can also be provided if the person chooses and is able to undertake employment-related activities. This change is consistent with the Working New Zealand objective of supporting people, including those with significant disability, to work to the extent they are able.

- 25 The minimum age for eligibility for the programme would also be lowered from 21 to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16). This is consistent with the criteria for other vocational programmes delivered through the Ministry of Social Development, and would allow the students to make the transition from school at the age that is appropriate for them. The change would achieve two outcomes. It would ensure that very high needs students who leave school before age 21 can access support to participate in their community or employment when they leave school, and remove a potential inconsistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.
- 26 There is some risk that setting the minimum age for eligibility for this programme at the minimum school leaving age may be seen as indicating that it is appropriate for very high needs students to leave school early. The expectation is that very high needs students will be encouraged and supported to remain in education, and to realise their educational potential, as other students are. Students who are verified as very high needs receive about \$30,000 a year in extra education support which is focused on extra specialist teaching and specialist support for educational outcomes. The vocational services do not provide for this level of educational or developmental support.
- 27 To mitigate the risk, any communications about the programme will stress that it is expected that very high needs students should still be encouraged to realise their educational potential before transitioning from school. The Ministry of Social Development will discuss each application with the student and their family or carers to ensure they have accurate information about the types of post-school services available, and are able to make an informed decision about the best option for their future. The students will still be entitled to stay at secondary school until they are 21.
- 28 Consideration was given to the options of setting the age of eligibility for the programme at 18, 19 or 20 years. However, there are no compelling reasons for setting a higher age threshold for access to post-school services for severely disabled young people than for other young people. The queries received by the Ministry of Social Development about the programme have been from families on behalf of older students, suggesting that most families consider that continuing education is the better option for their 16 and 17 year olds. There are some circumstances where remaining at school is not the most suitable option for the young person, and so it is preferable to ensure they have support to engage in other constructive activities.

### Consultation

- 29 The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, The Treasury, the Office for Disability Issues, and Ministry of Justice have been consulted on this paper.

### Financial implications

- 30 The very high needs school leavers programme is one of a number of services funded through the Vote Social Development appropriation for Vocational Services for People with Disabilities. \$8.372 million (ex GST) has been approved to purchase services for very high

needs school leavers in 2007/08 and outyears<sup>3</sup>. In Budget 2002, Cabinet agreed that "any increases in the numbers eligible for Vocational Services will be addressed as a forecasting change in future baseline updates" [CAB Min (02) 12/8(48) refers], so the funding for very high needs school leavers is demand-driven.

- 31 It is difficult to predict how many very high needs students will want to access a vocational service before age 21 if the minimum age is lowered, but the number is expected to be small. Based on enquiries received, the Ministry of Social Development estimates between 15 to 20 students may wish to leave school before age 21 each year. This would mean a slight increase in demand for new places on the programme from students aged under 21 in the next two to three years, and a corresponding reduction in numbers of students seeking to access the programme at age 21.
- 32 The impact of the policy change in Vote Social Development Non-Departmental Output Class: Vocational Services for People with Disabilities resulting is estimated to be<sup>4</sup>:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 and outyears
Net additional places	20	40	0	0
Net additional expenditure (\$million GST excl)	0.300	0.600		-

- 33 The Ministry of Social Development estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (ex GST) in the funding currently allocated for very high needs school leavers in 2008/09, as there have been some early exits of people from the programme and some eligible school leavers have not accessed the assistance. It is proposed that the under-spend be reallocated to fund the policy change in the short-term. Any net increase in spending in 2009/10 and outyears would be included in future baseline forecasting changes as part of overall demand-driven changes.
- 34 The policy change will result in a reduction in costs in Vote Education as some very high needs students transition from school earlier. The Ministry of Education is discussing with Treasury adjustments to the ORRS baseline to take account of the estimated increased outflow to Social Development-funded services.

### Human rights implications

- 35 The proposals in this paper will remove a rule that determines access to assistance on the basis of age. Consequently they remove a potential inconsistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

### Legislative implications

- 36 There are no legislative implications.

<sup>3</sup> CAB Min (00) 16/6(57), CAB Min (02) 12/8(48), CAB Min (04) 13/3(55), CAB Min (05) 13/7(53).

<sup>4</sup> The estimate assumes (based on enquiries received) that each year 20 students leave school on average 2 years earlier than age 21, and that there is a corresponding reduction in the numbers of students who access the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme at age 21.

## Regulatory impact and compliance cost statement

37 There are no regulatory implications.

## Gender implications

38 There are no significant gender implications.

## Disability perspective

39 The proposed changes are intended to enable young disabled people with high needs to make a smooth transition from school to services that support them to participate in their communities as other adult New Zealanders do. This is in accordance with objective 13 of the New Zealand Disability Strategy to enable disabled children and youth to lead full and active lives.

## Publicity

40 I propose to inform the disability sector of the policy change through the disability issues newsletter *Participate*. The Ministry of Social Development will also publicise the change through the Office for Disability Issues' website and Email Update. The Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Education will inform schools, students with very high needs and their families and carers of the new policy.

## Recommendations

41 It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that since 1999 the government has provided funding through Vote Social Development for the Ministry of Social Development to purchase community participation type vocational services for students with very high needs when they leave school at age 21;
- 2 **note** that the policy limiting eligibility for this funding to school leavers aged 21 is outdated and hinders young people with high needs from making a smooth transition from school to the adult world at an age that is appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances;
- 3 **agree** that the amended purpose for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme will be to provide funding for community participation or employment support services for very high needs school leavers;
- 4 **agree** that the minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme be lowered from 21 to the minimum school leaving age (currently 16);
- 5 **agree** that the amended purpose and minimum age for eligibility for the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme take effect from 1 April 2008;

- 6 **note** that the Ministry of Social Development estimates that there will be an under-spend of approximately \$330,000 (ex GST) in the funding allocated for very high needs school leavers in 2008/09 as there have been some early exits of people from the programme;
- 7 **agree** that the under-spend be reallocated to fund the policy change in 2008/09;
- 8 **note** that any increase in numbers of people accessing the very high needs school leaver vocational services programme in 2009/10 and outyears would be addressed in future baseline forecasting changes [CAB Min (02) 12/8(48) refers];
- 9 **note** that the policy change will result in a reduction in costs in Vote Education as some very high needs students transition from school earlier;
- 10 **note** that the Ministry of Education is discussing with Treasury adjustments to the Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme baseline to take account of the estimated increased outflow to Social Development-funded services;
- 11 **note** that the policy change will be publicised through the disability issues newsletter *Participate*, the Office for Disability Issues' website and Email Update, and that the Ministries of Social Development and Education will inform schools and their families and carers.




Hon Ruth Dyson  
Minister for Social Development and Employment

Date 19. 2. 2008


RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

## CONSULTATION ON CABINET AND CABINET COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

### CERTIFICATION BY DEPARTMENT

<p><b>Guidance on the consultation requirements for Cabinet and Cabinet committee papers is provided in the Procedures: Consultation section of the CabGuide website at <a href="http://www.cabguide.cabinetoffice.govt.nz/procedures/consultation">http://www.cabguide.cabinetoffice.govt.nz/procedures/consultation</a></b></p>		
<p><b>Departments/agencies consulted:</b> The attached submission has implications for the following departments/agencies whose views have been sought and are accurately reflected in the submission:</p> <p>Ministry of Education, the Treasury, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Office for Disability Issues</p>		
<p><b>Departments/agencies informed:</b> In addition, the following departments/agencies have an interest in the submission and have been informed:</p>		
<p><b>Others consulted:</b> Other interested groups have been consulted as follows:</p>		
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Name, Title, Department</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Carolyn Risk, Acting General Manager, Working Age People's Policy	19/02/2008

### CERTIFICATION BY MINISTER

<p><b>Ministers should be prepared to update and amplify the advice below when the submission is discussed at Cabinet/Cabinet committee. The attached proposal:</b></p>		
<b>Consultation at Ministerial level</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been consulted with the Minister of Finance <i>[required for all submissions seeking new funding]</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been consulted with the following Ministers: <i>Education, Health,</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> did not need consultation with other Ministers	
<b>Discussion with Labour/ Progressive caucuses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> has been or <input type="checkbox"/> will be discussed with the government caucuses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> does not need discussion with the government caucuses	
<b>Discussion with other parties</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> has been discussed with the following other parties represented in Parliament: <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand First <input type="checkbox"/> United Future <input type="checkbox"/> Green Party <input type="checkbox"/> Other [specify]	
	<input type="checkbox"/> will be discussed with the following other parties represented in Parliament: <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand First <input type="checkbox"/> United Future <input type="checkbox"/> Green Party <input type="checkbox"/> Other [specify]	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> does not need discussion with other parties represented in Parliament	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<i>Social Development</i>	<i>19, 2, 08</i>