# Report



Date: 19 January 2024 Security BUDGET - SENSITIVE

Level:

**To:** Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and

Employment

**Reference:** REP/24/1/042

# Budget 2024 and Fiscal Sustainability initial advice

## **Purpose**

1 This report provides you with advice for Budget 2024 including:

- saving options and MSD's advice on options for inclusion in your draft savings plan
- an update on invited new spending initiatives.

# **Executive Summary**

- In the Minister of Finance's letter of 21 December 2023, you were asked to provide an outline, due 16 February 2024, of the savings options and new spending initiatives that you wish to be considered as part of Budget 2024.
- 3 For your consideration, this report includes:
  - 3.1 the savings that are available to meet the Government's agreed savings target of \$119.4 million per year, including options and MSD's advice spanning policy, programme and departmental expenditure, along with Crown Entity savings options, as set out in Appendix 1
  - 3.2 an update on the four new spending initiatives that have been invited by the Minister of Finance for Budget 2024 \$\frac{59(2)(f)(iv)}{2}\$
    Apprenticeship Boost, Historic Claims, and Family Boost.
- There will be an opportunity to discuss your feedback on these new initiatives and savings options at your meeting with officials on Tuesday 23 January 2024.
- 5 You will receive the next report on Budget 2024 and fiscal sustainability by 26 January 2024 which will include talking points for ministerial engagement.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- note that the development of new spending and savings proposals must be completed by Friday 16 February 2024 for submission to the Minister of Finance
- 2 **note** the draft savings plan and MSD's recommendations on options for inclusion, as set out in Appendix 1

### **Policy savings**

- 3 note that you can use policy savings to meet the \$119.4 million per year target and you have also been invited to submit additional targeted policy savings
- 4 **note** that \$50 million per year in policy savings will be required to meet the \$119.4 million target
- 5 **indicate** which policy changes you would like MSD to progress work on:



5.2 Policy and operational changes to strengthen the gateway for emergency housing, supported by ongoing funding for support services and operational staff, to achieve savings of \$20.9 million per year

AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS

5.3 Including payments received from boarders and other residents in the property when housing subsidies are calculated to achieve savings of \$61.1 million per year

AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS

	5.1 s9(2)(f)(iv)	
6	s9(2)(f)(iv)	

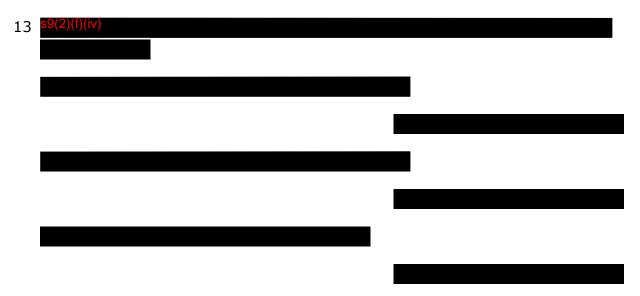
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		ed savings

,	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Cor	mmunity MCA and other programmes
}	<b>note</b> that you have previously agreed to stop the Minimum Wage Exemption Project, to achieve savings of between \$9.708 million and \$12.973 million per year
)	<b>note</b> that you have indicated your intention to discuss the goals for Family Violence and Sexual Violence programmes with Minister Chhour ahead of making decisions on savings
.0	s9(2)(f)(iv)
1	<b>agree</b> to progress savings to Community Support Services – <sup>\$9(2)(f)(iv)</sup> Innovation Fund by either:
	11.1 a reduction of \$1.0 million per year, OR;
	AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS
	11.2 s9(2)(f)(iv)
L2	s9(2)(f)(iv)

12.3 Supporting Disabled People – Innovation Fund, to achieve savings of \$3.75 million per year

AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS

Employment MCA and other programmes



## **Departmental savings**

- 14 **note** that MSD has identified the following savings from Departmental expenditure of \$40.0 million per year:
  - Contractors and Consultants
  - Travel
  - Accommodation National Office
  - Stationery and Consumables
  - Venue Catering and Equipment
  - Plant Hire and Cleaning costs
  - s9(2)(j)
- 15 **note** that MSD will provide advice on options to scale or stop functions to find other departmental savings through reduction in FTE on 2 February 2024

_		
Crown	Entity	savings

16 s9(2)(f)(iv)

17 <b>agree</b> to progress \$0.007 million in savin Registration Board	gs from the Social Workers		
	AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS		
Sacha O'Dea Deputy Chief Executive Strategy and Insights	Date		
Hon Louise Upston Minister for Social Development and Employment	Date		

## Savings options and plan

- To achieve the savings target of \$119.4 million per year from 2024/25, MSD has identified a range of savings options spanning targeted policy savings, non-departmental programme savings and departmental savings.
- 7 These options are summarised in the draft savings plan, attached as Appendix 1. Each expenditure area in the plan includes options and MSD's advice.
- 8 Appendices 2 through 4 show additional information across the policy and programme savings, along with:
  - 8.1 additional commentary for those initiatives that are included within the various draft savings plan options
  - 8.2 the annual savings that would result per initiative if implemented.

## **Policy savings options**

### **Progress on options since December 2023**

- 9 As set out in the Budget 2024 Letter from the Minister of Finance, targeted policy savings should be of a significant scale, of at least \$100 million for each option over the forecast period. With this direction and following the discussion at the Officials meeting on 18 December 2023 we have included a range of policy savings for your consideration. We recommend that you use \$50 million per year in policy savings be progressed to meet the \$119.4 million target. You have also been invited to submit additional targeted policy savings.
- 10 This is the first phase of a longer fiscal sustainability programme. For the policy savings options we have identified two categories of changes:
  - Those to progress in the Budget 2024 savings process which:
    - have a clear policy rationale
    - would achieve savings of \$100 million over the forecast period
    - would be possible for MSD to implement.
  - Areas that could be considered in the future, as part of future reprioritisation, which:
    - will require considerable further policy and operational design work, and / or
    - do not reach the level of significant savings of \$100 million over the forecast period.
- 11 We have included further information across both categories in the draft savings plan and Appendix 2.
- One of the key trade-offs will be between the amount of work for new initiatives (e.g. 59(2)(f)(iv) Traffic Light System and other manifesto

policies) work in train \$\frac{\sqrt{2}(f)(iv)}{\tau}\$, changes from other agencies/portfolios that we will need to implement, and these cost savings proposals. This will impact how far and fast we could go with policy cost savings initiatives for Budget 2024 and for future reprioritisation.

- 13 Many of the proposals will have a significant lead in time (of 18 months from decisions), which may impact the level of savings that are realisable in the first year. Costings and timeframes presented are individual to each proposal within each option, meaning that they represent the costings and timeframes if that proposal was progressed on its own. Because of this, we will need further direction on your preferred options before we can provide a more accurate representation of the possible savings, timeframes, flow-ons to other assistance, nature of regulatory changes, IT and other operational costs, and required trade-offs for implementation.
- 14 Should you want MSD to progress any policy savings options with an 18 month lead time, we will need to consider how this impacts the savings plan and consider other avenues / options to meet the target for 2024/25.

We are asking you to identify the policy savings you would like us to progress



#### Changes across the housing system

- 19 We have identified changes within Vote Social Development which would impact the \$\frac{59(2)(f)(iv)}{(iv)}\$ Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs). To ensure consistency across the housing system we recommend these changes be considered across Vote Housing and Urban Development (i.e. for transitional and social housing) and have reflected indicative costings for this.
- We have informed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora about these proposals. We would need to work closely with both agencies \$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac

Changes to the gateway for EH SNGs and ongoing funding for support services will continue a sustained reduction in the number of EH SNGs from July 2024

- 21 We consider there is a case for continued investment in support services as a mechanism for achieving savings over the longer term. To ensure that future reductions in numbers are possible to support the Government's commitment to reduce emergency housing, we consider that an approach with a range of changes will be required including:
  - changes to the EH SNG and transitional housing gateway, via continued focus by the front line on getting people out of emergency housing (e.g. use of the resolution framework) and strengthening the policy settings (for example, transitional housing (TH) providers could be required to give a higher priority to EH SNG clients through changes to secondary legislation)
  - ongoing funding of support services<sup>1</sup> we estimate that \$30 million per year would help to ensure we have the support to get people into more suitable accommodation (TH, social housing and private rentals).

Recent data on support services show they contribute to a reduction in the number of EH SNG households:

<sup>•</sup> The Housing Broker service placed over 1,182 households in sustainable accommodation over the 2022/23 financial year.

<sup>•</sup> MSD offered 109 Ready-to-Rent programmes over the 2022/23 financial year, and have received positive feedback from clients and landlords.

<sup>•</sup> Available data shows that as of 31 October 2023, around 2,356 distinct clients were supported by an Integrated Case Service Manager, and around 827 clients were supported by a contracted Navigator service.

Flexible Funding has been valuable for meeting the educational and well-being needs of families with children in emergency housing, through a variety of activities including holiday and after-school programmes, transport to and from school, swimming lessons, educational and wellness programmes, individual mentoring, sport fees and family days.

- 22 Strengthening the policy and operational settings for EH SNGs can help ensure that the incentives between EH, TH and social housing are appropriate, and that EH SNGs go to those who are most in need. These changes can be implemented to support a sustained reduction in the number of households in emergency housing from 1 July 2024.
- 23 By 1 July 2024, we expect the number of EH SNG households to reduce by 10 percent. This is attributed to the use of FTE support and services for EH SNG recipients to address wider income<sup>2</sup>, employment and support needs and help get people into sustainable accommodation, practice changes, and additional supply of transitional and social housing coming online in the first half of 2024.
- We expect a further sustained reduction over the 2-year period from 1 July 2024 if there is continued investment in EH SNG support services, and changes are made to the EH SNG and TH gateway settings.
- We recommend stopping work on implementing the Housing Support Product pilot (\$13 million over 2 years) which was time-limited funding secured via Budget 2022. The purpose of the funding was to assist people who are vulnerable in the housing market, including EH clients to obtain and maintain private rental housing. We propose that this be reprioritised to fund the continuation of support services.
- While the priority one fast-track process will be implemented to support a reduction in the number of families in emergency housing as they will be placed in social housing at a faster rate, there is a risk of clients, particularly single people with high and complex needs, staying in emergency housing for longer periods without access to support services. Without ongoing funding for EH SNG support services, we consider that it will be more difficult to support emergency housing clients into sustainable accommodation and a sustained reduction in the number of EH SNG households.

Including payments made by boarders and others living in the property in the calculation of housing subsidies

- 27 The current settings for the treatment of boarders' payments can result in MSD providing support twice for the same accommodation costs. Currently, the system allows a boarder's accommodation costs to be claimed by both that boarder and the tenant/homeowner for the property.
- We currently only charge any profit from three boarders or more as income for income tested financial assistance, and in the calculation of Income Related Rent (IRR).<sup>3</sup> This means that the accommodation costs could be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Including Housing Support Products

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The exception is when the boarding arrangement is for a business, then the total board payments from any number of boarders is charged as income.

- considered twice by MSD when we calculate the Accommodation Supplement, Temporary Additional Support and IRR for a tenant/homeowner and all their boarders.
- 29 Including payments from all boarders in the calculation of accommodation costs and IRR would support greater consistency / equity.
- 30 This change across the system could generate significant savings (\$244.4 million over the forecast period) and ensure that people who have boarders are not advantaged over those who do not.

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s9(2)	O(f)(iv)
35	Many of the proposals we discussed with you in December 2023 were about greater consistency between groups / payments, simplifying what assistance is available in the welfare system, or returning to expenditure levels around pre-2018. S9(2)(f)(iv)

• \$9(2)(f)(iv) \$9(2)(f)(iv)

# We are asking you to identify \$30 million per year in savings from programmes

### **Community MCA and other programmes**

- 37 The Community Support Services MCA funds programmes to deliver a broad scope of social services and community-based activity partnerships (REP/23/12/276 refers). This includes funding for family violence and sexual violence services, building financial capability services, sector support and support for iwi.
- 38 MSD recommends including the following options from the Community MCA (indicated in Appendix 3), \$9(2)(f)(iv)



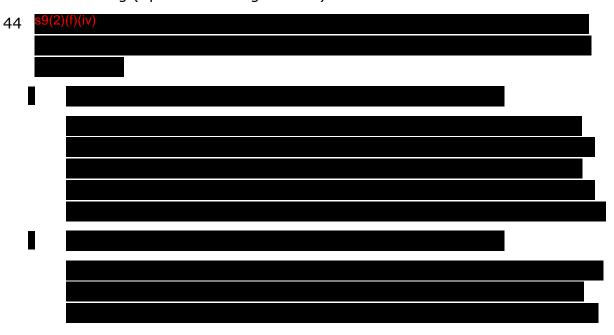
- ending the Community Innovation Fund, which supports programmes and services that align to the intention of the MCA (\$1.000 million)
- s9(2)(f)(iv)
- stopping the Minimum Wage Exemption project, as previously agreed by you (REP/23/12/928 refers). Savings vary per year (ranging from \$9.708 million to \$12.973 million).
- 39 Reducing or ending these programmes provides opportunity to realise fiscal savings quickly, as they have not yet been procured or fully contracted. The savings are spread across the MCA and will have less impact on direct services to clients.

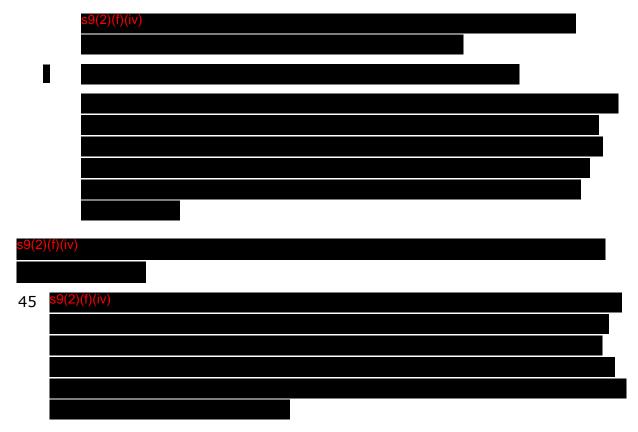




### **Employment MCA and other programmes**

- The Employment and Social Outcomes MCA funds products and programmes, as well as FTE which are the main mechanisms that support people into work and enable MSD to achieve public service targets relating to benefit reduction or benefit exits. The products and programmes under the MCA:
  - help our staff place people into employment (wage subsidies), through
     Flexi Wage or Mana in Mahi
  - fund community providers and industry partners to help clients find and sustain work (Employment Placement Programmes)
  - fund community providers to help clients train and prepare for work (Work Readiness Programmes)
  - help clients directly transition into work (Transition to work products),
     such as Transition to Work, \$5k to Work and In Work Payments
  - Specialised non-departmental funded contracts that help clients with specific needs such as Driver Licencing Support and Māori Trades and Training (Specialised Programmes).





# We have identified \$40 million per year in departmental savings

Contractor and Consultant Savings (\$15.650 million)

- 46 In August 2023, the Government announced a commitment to getting contractor and consultant spending to below 11 percent of public sector workforce spending.
- 47 In 2024/25 we are planning to spend \$77.2 million on contractors and consultants, a reduction of 25 percent in total from the current year. This has been achieved by reducing Te Pae Tawhiti expenditure in the current year and the next financial year by \$3.0 million and reducing other projects in both years by \$8.6 million. This is a total annual proposed contractor and consultant savings of \$11.6 million per year.
- 48 In addition, we are planning to minimise contractors and consultants to backfill vacancies. Whilst we have budgeted zero, we would expect a small level of spend. As this spend will be funded from the personnel budget, we have not recognised an explicit saving. However, there will be a price differential between permanent or fixed term FTEs and the cost of utilising a flexible workforce and we are anticipating a \$4.0 million savings per year.
- 49 For the 2024/25 year MSD's forecast contractor and consultant spend will equate to 9 percent of MSD's workforce expenditure, which is in line with the Government target.

Operational Savings (\$5.738 million)

- MSD's fiscal sustainability and efficiency project has identified operational savings in travel, accommodation (National Office), stationery and consumables, devices and peripherals, venue catering and equipment, as well as plant hire, cleaning \$9(2)(1)
- A targeted 25 percent reduction, limiting purchases to on catalogue only and various contract re-negotiations will generate \$5.738 million in savings per year.

Other savings (\$18.612 million)

We had intended to present initial advice on scaling or stopping functions in this report (REP/24/1/010 refers). However, deferring this advice until the Tranche 3 report (due 2 February 2024) will enable MSD to account for any potential impacts arising from your direction on the other components of the draft savings plan. MSD's Leadership Team will consider these impacts at their meeting on 30 January 2024, and initial advice will be included in the Tranche 3 report.

## Savings from Crown Entities (\$0.684 million per year)

- For Budget 2024, Social Development Crown Entities are also expected to manage cost pressures from within baseline, and develop savings proposals to reach the overall savings target of 6.5 percent of their eligible expenditure. Estimated at \$0.684 million per year, these savings will offset the amount required to achieve the overall \$119.4 million target for Vote Social Development.
- 54 All three entities have received verbal and written guidance from MSD to clarify expectations and timeframes, and have been offered support with the process. Copies of MSD's written guidance have been provided to your office.

# Update on new spending initiatives



#### **Historic Claims**

We have been engaging with your office and a meeting scheduled on 24 January 2024 to provide further detail about our current demand and resolution of claims progress - including the impact of the Rapid Payments option for claimants. Three funding options have been worked up with costs varying from \$46.6 million to \$52.6 million per year.

- 57 Following this meeting, a report to the Ministers of Finance, Public Service and Social Development will be developed and sent to you for review. This will provide:
  - further context on the relationship between the current claims process and the design of the new redress system
  - an update on the current budget year, and
  - further information on future funding that is likely to be required.

### **Apprenticeship Boost**

Work on the Apprenticeship Boost initiative has been invited for consideration at Budget 2024, with the expectation that MSD and the Ministry of Education collaborate on the development of this initiative. Initial advice on maintaining the Apprenticeship Boost beyond 2024 and targeting the scheme was provided to you in December 2023.

### **FamilyBoost**

Work on FamilyBoost is led by Inland Revenue, and we are working with them to understand whether there are any flow on impacts. Any information about this initiative will go into the Budget letter from the Minister for Revenue.

### **Next steps**

60 MSD officials will be available to discuss this report with you at our meeting on 23 January 2024. Following this discussion, we will provide you with Budget 2024 and FSP Tranche 2 report by 26 January 2024. This will include talking points to support Ministerial engagement.

# **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft savings plan

Appendix 2 – Targeted Policy Savings

Appendix 3 – Community MCA and other programmes

Appendix 4 – Employment MCA and other programmes

Author: out of scope, Manager Budget Team, Organisational Planning, Performance and Governance, Strategy and Insights

Responsible manager: Sacha O'Dea, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Insights

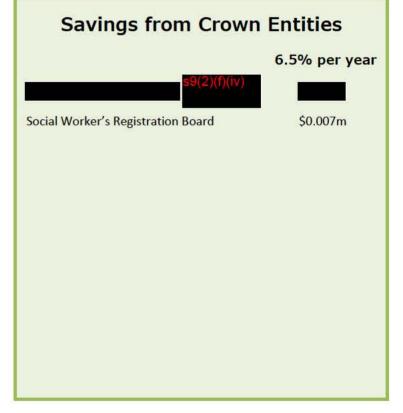
# Appendix 1 - Draft savings plan

# Savings from Policy changes Target: \$50 million per year To align with the expectation that Targeted Policy Savings and revenue options should be of a significant scale, (of at least \$100 m for each option over the forecast period), these figures are also included. All costings remain indicative and will require further work. **Over Forecast Period** Per year Options to progress this year • Changes to gateway for Emergency \$20.9m from: Housing Special Needs Grants (EH \$13m (stopping HSP SNGs) and continuing supports to pilot - time-limited) achieve overall reduction in • \$37.9m (10% reduction households in EH SNGs) · Investment of \$30m for support services Including income from all boarders AS/TAS: \$52.0m AS/TAS: \$208.0m when calculating housing subsidies IRR: 9.1m IRR: \$36.4m



### \*MSD recommendations





# Appendix 2 - Targeted Policy Savings

2 Changes to gateway for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH ShGs) and continuing supports to achieve overall reduction in the number of households receiving EH ShGs by 20-25 percent:  a) eligibility changes, for example removing discretion to pay over the income and cash asset limits b) continuing FTE support (including PH ShGs by 20-25 percent: c) eligibility changes, for example removing discretion to pay over the income and cash asset limits c) continuing FTE support (including PH ShGs by 20-25 percent). C) continuing FTE support (including continued as a possible Funding Assistance by a payox 430 mm to retain a radicing of the ShGs and and an account of the standard		Proposal	Savings per year (average)	Savings over forecast period	Estimated timeframe (from decision)	IT costs	Client and staff impacts	MSD Comment	Ministers comment
	2	Changes to gateway for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs) and continuing supports to achieve overall reduction in households  Targeting a reduction in the number of households receiving EH SNGs by 20-25 percent:  a) eligibility changes, for example removing discretion to pay over the income and cash asset limits b) continuing FTE support (including Housing Brokers, Intensive Service Case Managers and Navigator Support Services), Ready to Rent Programme, and Flexible Funding Assistance to get people out of emergency housing c) stopping the implementation of the time-limited Housing Support Products (HSPs) Pilot to redirect funding to FTE	\$20.9 m from:  \$37.9m from reducing households receiving EH SNGs by 10%  \$13 m from ceasing the HSP pilot (time- limited)  Additional funding of approx \$30 m to retain a reducing number of FTE and support	Would need to be worked	9 to 12 months – for eligibility	only required for eligibility	will help people to get into private rental housing.  Changes to EH SNG eligibility and practice for when to decline a grant may increase hardship for clients.  Staff: Continued investment in FTE support for EH SNGs will ensure staff have the tools to help clients get ready for or find alternative accommodation.  Depends on nature of eligibility changes. For example, removing the discretion to pay over the income and cash asset limit would align with other SNG, RAPs and advance programmes which are easier for staff to administer.  As the HSP Pilot has not been implemented it would not have any	settings for the EH SNG alongside funding for support services to reduce the cost to government associated with EH SNGs. This is a case of investing in services to help deliver savings.  Maintaining flexible funding assistance would require an amendment to the Flexible Funding Programme to retain Flexible Funding Assistance past 30 June 2024, and any changes to EH SNG eligibility would require changes to the Special Needs Grants Programme. We do not recommend a fundamental redesign of the EH SNG as part of this change.  Costings assume reduction to EH SNG grants with no change to duration of EH grants or the weekly cost.	

Proposal	Savings per year (average)	Savings over forecast period	Estimated timeframe (from decision)	IT costs	Client and staff impacts	MSD Comment	Ministers comment
<ul> <li>Including payments from all boarders and others living in the property when calculating housing subsidies.         <ul> <li>a) Recognising the payments received from boarders and others living in the property as a reduction in accommodation costs for Accommodation Supplement and Temporary Additional Support</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) For social housing tenants either count the housing component of any board payments received when calculating the tenants Income Related Rent (IRR), or charge a fixed amount for each boarder.</li> </ul>	\$52.0m \$9.1m	\$208.0m \$36.4m	18 months +	\$3m +	Clients: Reducing assessable accommodation costs for people who receive payments from boarders, or others living in the property will reduce the amount of AS/TAS paid to people who rent or own a property and who have boarders/others who make a payment for their accommodation. There are currently 64,301 boarders receiving AS. Many are assumed to be adult children living with their families (20,376 boarders are under the age of 25 years). There are also appears to be a growing number are older parent(s) living with their adult children (7,701 boarders are aged 60 years or over).  Staff: Medium to large impact - Frontline staff will require training to discuss with the client if they have others living in their property who contribute to costs and to advise how these payments impact any	We recommend progressing this proposal as a targeted policy saving, recognising that you may want to discuss this with the Minister of Housing.  Both changes would provide greater consistency with income support system settings. Both would require changes to Regulations, and changes to the Social Security Act 2018 (SSA) would be required to change the definition of accommodation costs.  We have modelled a number of options to consider, but further policy work would be required. Changing how we treat boarder income for the AS overall may result in the upper range of savings. For the costing of a), we have assumed:  • April 2025 implementation  • MSD identifies board payments and adjusts clients' allowable costs prior to the change  • \$9(2)(g)(i)  We have no information on board payments paid to AS clients by people who are not receiving AS. This means	
4 s9(2)(f)(iv)					financial assistance.	that savings are potentially under-estimated. If board payments are not identified then the savings will be over-estimated.	

Proposal	Savings per year (average)	Savings over forecast period	Estimated timeframe (from decision)	IT costs	Client and staff impacts	MSD Comment	Ministers comment
Policy changes that could be considered as	part of future r	eprioritisation					
1 s9(2)(f)(iv)							

# Appendix 3 - Community MCA and other programmes

The below table sets out possible Programme funding for fiscal savings (target \$30 million). No FTEs have been included.

Service and description	Annual Savings (\$m)	Does it fit with Government direction?	Does it provide Value for Money (evidence of effectiveness & evaluation)	Can service end 30 June 2024 Y/N?	What are risks of service ceasing and estimate of any costs?	MSD Comment
*Employment - Minimum Wage Exemption  This project supports NZ's compliance with UN Declaration on the Rights of Disabled People and the repealing of Section 8 of the Employment Act which allows disabled people to be paid less than minimum wage. This project will support a medium-term solution to help us transition people who are currently named on a minimum wage exemption permit to the minimum wage through the introduction of a wage supplement for this cohort of people. Timelines would see implementation begin in late 2024.	2024/25: 9.708 2025/26: 11.593 2026/27: 12.973 2027/28: 12.242	No – you have agreed to end the Minimum Wage Exemption project.		Y (in full)	Refer REP/23/12/928 for detail on discontinuing the wage supplement to replace Minimum Wage Exemption permits.	You have agreed to end this funding (REP/23/12/928 refers). This includes fiscal savings of \$9.708m operating expenditure in 2024/25 and a total of \$46.516m operating expenditure over four years.
s9 (2 ) (†) (iv )						

Service and description	Annual Savings (\$m)	Does it fit with Government direction?	Does it provide Value for Money (evidence of effectiveness & evaluation)	Can service end 30 June 2024 Y/N?	What are risks of service ceasing and estimate of any costs?	MSD Comment
(2 ) (f) (iv						
*Sector Capability and Support - Community Innovation Fund Funds innovative programmes and services that aim to achieve increased financial capability, inclusion, and improved wellbeing of vulnerable individuals and families.	1.000	Unclear		Y (in full)	Funding to support time limited innovation programmes would be withdrawn from communities.  Also limits ability to test and adopt more efficient ways to deliver services that support vulnerable clients.	Suggest ending the Community Innovation Fund for fiscal savings of \$1m per year.  Funding is not contracted and can be ended with minimal funding and contracting impacts.
(2						

Service and description Saving (\$m)	Covernment	Does it provide Value for Money (evidence of effectiveness & evaluation)	Can service end 30 June 2024 Y/N?	What are risks of service ceasing and estimate of any costs?	MSD Comment
s9(2)(f)(iv)					

Service and description	Annual Savings (\$m)	Does it fit with Government direction?	Does it provide Value for Money (evidence of effectiveness & evaluation)	Can service end 30 June 2024 Y/N?	What are risks of service ceasing and estimate of any costs?	MSD Comment
s9(2)(f)(iv)						

Service and description	Annual Savings (\$m)	Does it fit with Government direction?	Does it provide Value for Money (evidence of effectiveness & evaluation)	Can service end 30 June 2024 Y/N?	What are risks of service ceasing and estimate of any costs?	MSD Comment
s9(2)(f)(iv)						

