

# Investing in the Resilience and Recovery of Providers, in the Face of COVID-19

As part of the COVID-19 Budget package we want to invest in the capability and resilience of providers so they can be safe, sustainable, and strong in the recovery to COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

**Ensures providers can continue to deliver necessary services to support their communities in responding to and then recovering from the impacts of COVID-19.**

**Government is investing \$22 million over the next two years to strengthen the resilience and organisational capability of providers not receiving Budget 2020 cost pressure funding.**

- Community groups and networks have proved themselves vital in the initial response to COVID-19 in the lockdown period.
- There is significant urgency to minimise the impact on Māori and Pacific, who are already disproportionately disadvantaged by the impacts of COVID-19, including to prevent infection and maintain wellbeing.
- Many of the providers that will benefit from this funding support our Māori and Pacific communities. For these providers to be able to continue this work and assist Government to implement necessary services, they will need to have strong and sufficient infrastructure in place to ensure capability and delivery of quality services.
- This investment is an extension of the initial COVID-19 \$27m community support package recently put in place by Government. The need for which has become clear as the full extent of the impacts of COVID-19 become more evident. It is directed solely at service/provider infrastructure – not broader unmet community level need, which is covered by a parallel Community Capability initiative.
- The investment will be primarily for existing Ministry of Social Development (MSD)-funded providers not already receiving other targeted and programme-specific COVID-19 response funding, notably the parallel Building Financial Capability (BFC) or Family Violence initiatives.
- The funding enables providers to strengthen their organisational capability to respond to COVID-19 and beyond by focusing on:
  - Operational management, policies and procedures (i.e. business continuity plans)
  - Workforce development and wellbeing (e.g. Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP), supervision, and health and safety)
  - Technology to deliver services differently and maintain infrastructure with more clients
  - Service innovation and redesign to better meet the needs of people, whānau and communities.
- Consideration may also be given to providers that are not contracted with MSD but who secured an initial COVID-19 grant and where there is an identified service gap.

Costs (operating) \$m		
2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
15.0	7.0	22.0