

Memo

To: Hon Louise Upston
Minister for Disability Issues

From: Justine Cornwall; Disability Policy

Date: 13 February 2026

Security level: IN-CONFIDENCE

Disability Support Services Bill: Seeking approval to draft ahead of Cabinet policy decisions

Purpose

As discussed with you when we met on 12 February, we are proceeding with all necessary steps to progress a DSS Bill to set up the foundation for the DSS system and to address fiscal and litigation risks.

Normally Cabinet agreement is required before drafting instructions can be issued to the Parliament Counsel Office (PCO). However, in view of the very compressed timeframe for the Bill, you have agreed to write to the Attorney-General seeking her approval that instructions be issued to PCO ahead of Cabinet agreement [REP/26/2/058 refers]. The attached letter seeks that approval. Alongside this we also recommend that you engage with the Minister of Finance at an early opportunity to ensure alignment regarding the need for Budget night legislation. We will provide supporting material for that meeting as required.

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- a) **Sign** the letter to the Attorney-General seeking her approval to issue drafting instructions to PCO.



13 February 2026

Justine Cornwall
Justine Cornwall, General Manager, DSS Policy

Date