

Aide-mémoire



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Meeting

Date: 26 February 2025 **Security Level:** BUDGET SENSITIVE
For: Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment
File Reference: REP/25/2/138

Budget 2025 – Ministerial engagement with the Minister of Health and Minister for Children

Meeting details Monday 3 March, 4:30pm – 5pm, EW 5.1L

Expected attendees **Ministers**
- Hon Simeon Brown – Minister of Health
- Hon Karen Chhour – Minister for Children

Purpose of meeting The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the following Budget 2025 proposals with the Minister of Health and Minister for Children:

- Child and Youth Strategy
- Food Secure Communities.

Summary This aide memoire provides you with talking points for your discussion with the Minister of Health and Minister for Children (attached as Appendix One) – ahead of your Budget 2025 Social Development and Employment bilateral with the Minister of Finance on Wednesday 5 March.

The talking points reflect those previously provided in the draft bilateral aide memoire (REP/25/2/122 refers).

Appendices Appendix One – Talking points to support your discussion with the Minister of Health and Minister for Children
Appendix Two – Extra information

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

The Aurora Centre, 56 The Terrace, PO Box 1556, Wellington
– Telephone 04-916 3300 – Facsimile 04-918 0099

Appendix One – Talking points to support your discussion with the Minister of Health and Minister for Children

Child and Youth Strategy

General points about the Budget 2025 proposal

- Cabinet has agreed that the refreshed Child and Youth Strategy focus on three key priorities:
 - supporting children and families in the first 2,000 days
 - reducing child material hardship, and
 - preventing child harm.
- These priorities span Ministerial portfolios and contribute to outcomes across multiple domains. As lead Minister for the Child and Youth Strategy, s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Given this will require collaborative work across Ministerial portfolios and agencies, s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- However, I am keen to start the process through Budget 2025 for Vote Social Development, and to this end I have submitted a Budget 2025 bid seeking to reprioritise funding from the Vote to help deliver on the priorities in the Strategy.
- I am proposing to reprioritise \$40m over four years from Vote Social Development to support three initiatives. I am not seeking any new funding through this bid – but am proposing to use savings from Automated Decision-Making to:
 - Continue the KickStart Breakfast programme for a further year to provide daily free breakfasts to more than 42,000 students in over 1,400 schools (\$1.23m in 2025/26)
 - Continue to provide 17,500 waterproof jackets to schools over the next two years through KidsCan (\$750,000 across two years)
 - Establish a contingency to fund evidence-based parenting programmes and resources that support positive parenting practices (\$38m across four years).

Evidence from SIA's work on the first 2,000 days about what parenting programmes have the best outcomes

- I'm aware that in October/ November the Social Investment Agency undertook an impact review of government spending in the First 2000 days.
- Of the 113 programmes that SIA looked at, about a dozen are programmes aimed at building parental confidence, positive parent-

child relationships, and parenting practices that support child development and address behavioural challenges.

- As was its intended purpose, the impact review provides a useful source of evidence to inform our investments.
- The SIA identified three existing parenting programmes as having the most evidence of positive impact, and potential opportunities for further investment: Triple P; Incredible Years; and Hoki Ki Te Rito | Mellow Parenting.
 - Triple P (and the kaupapa Māori adaption, Te Whānau Pou Toru): As noted in my Budget template, the positive impact and value for money of the Triple P programme is supported by strong evidence (including randomised control trials, or RCTs), both in New Zealand and internationally. A small amount of funding is currently provided from Vote Health for provider coordination and training to support programme delivery in four locations.
 - Incredible Years (Parent): There is strong evidence this intervention improves outcomes, including large improvements in child behaviours (including for children with ADHD), moderate to large improvement in parenting practices, and moderate reductions in parental conflict. Evidence suggests it is more effective for families with higher distress and number of issues. Incredible Years is an internationally developed programme that has been delivered in New Zealand since at least 2010 and is currently funded through Vote Education.
 - Hoki Ki Te Rito (kaupapa Māori adaption of internationally developed Mellow Parenting): Overseas RCT evidence and kaupapa Māori evaluation indicate that programme participation is associated with improvements in maternal wellbeing and a reduction in child behaviour problems. This is a small-scale initiative, that currently receives a small amount of funding from Vote Education.
- All these parenting programmes are brief interventions that are delivered at low cost per capita, but with significant benefits for both parents and children across a range of outcome areas (children's cognitive and behaviour development, maternal mental health, family stress and risk factors for family violence).
- If Vote Social Development funding is reprioritised as proposed, the next step is to work with agencies to confirm the specifics for expanding access to evidence-based parenting programmes.

Food Secure Communities

- I intend to reprioritise funding to invest \$15m in 2025/26 to continue the Food Secure Communities programme for one more year (at 2024/25 levels) to support families with ongoing cost-of-living pressures. Treasury now expects the pace of economic recovery to be slower than previously forecast and unemployment to remain higher for longer.

- The benefits of the programme include:
 - providing value-for-money, including through rescuing surplus food and sourcing supplies significantly below retail costs.
 - promoting a whānau-centred approach which especially benefits children and aligns with the *increased student attendance* Government target
 - reducing greenhouse gas emissions through food rescue.

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Appendix Two – Extra information

Child and Youth Strategy

Three components of the Budget 2025 proposal

- The three components of the Budget 2025 initiative are as follows.
 1. Continue the KickStart Breakfast programme for a further year (\$1.23m in 2025/26)
 - Government will continue to partner with Fonterra and Sanitarium to provide daily free breakfasts to more than 42,000 students in over 1,400 schools.
 - Currently, there is no funding appropriated for the Government contribution to continue beyond the 2024/25 financial year. Continuing the funding for a further year will provide continuity while the Ministry of Education completes the review of broader provision of food in schools.
 - Continuing this initiative will contribute to reducing child material hardship.
 2. Continue provision of jackets by KidsCan in schools (\$750,000 across two years)
 - KidsCan will be funded to continue to provide 17,500 waterproof jackets to schools over the next two years.
 - Currently, there is no funding appropriated for this KidsCan programme beyond the 2024/25 financial year.
 - Continuing this initiative will contribute to reducing child material hardship.
 3. Establish a contingency to fund evidence-based parenting programmes (\$38m across four years)
 - The contingency would be used to purchase the provision of prevention-focused programmes and resources that support positive parenting practices in the first 2,000 days of children's lives (conception to age 5).
 - This initiative will contribute to supporting children and their families in the first 2,000 days and to preventing child harm.

Background information about SIA impact review, including findings about parenting programmes

- In September / October 2024, the SIA, supported by the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group in MSD, undertook an impact review of social sector spend in the first 2,000 days. The review covered over 100 programmes and initiatives in health, housing, education, income support, and other services. SIA found that First 2000 Days spending is hard to define or quantify as most of the relevant investment is in 'core' services (e.g. health, education, taxes

and transfers etc), with limited specific investment targeted to First 2,000 Days outcomes, and to specific cohorts within this.

- SIA's impact review of First 2000 Days programmes looked at four factors: (1) NZ evidence of impact; (2) alignment with international evidence; (3) quality of the evidence against the SIA evidence standards; and (4) alignment of the programme with the First 2000 Days focus areas in the Strategy (maternal mental health, parenting support, child cognitive development). SIA then gave programmes an overall 'evidence of impact' score (High/Medium/Low) and categorised them as either: a Mature Investment (e.g. core service or policy); Opportunity for Investment; Strategic Priority; Speculative Prospect (i.e. good alignment with Strategy but little or no existing evaluative evidence); or Low Impact.
- The following table presents the SIA findings for evidence of impact, overall evidence score, and categorisation.

Programme name	Impact (based on NZ and international evidence)	Evidence of impact (size of impact + quality of evidence)	Categorisation
Incredible years (parent)	Positive	High	Opportunity for investment
Incredible Years Autism	Slightly positive	Medium	Opportunity for investment
Hoki Ki Te Rito Mellow Parenting Programme	Very positive	High	Opportunity for investment
Triple P and Te Whānau Pou Toru (culturally adapted variant of Triple P)	Positive	High	Opportunity for investment
HIPPY (rescoped "Whānau at home") <i>Programme that empowers parents to prepare their 2–5-year-old children for success at early childhood education (ECE) and school by fostering parents' skills and confidence as educators.</i>	Slightly positive	Low-medium	Opportunity for investment
Triple P - Parenting through separation		No information	Mature investment
Skip Local Initiatives and National Parent Support and Education Programmes Takai		No information	Strategic priority
Family Start	Slightly positive	Medium	Mature investment
Toolbox Parenting Programme	Positive	High	Mature investment
Watch Wait and Wonder		No information	Speculative prospect
Whānau Toko I Te Ora- Whānau-Centred Support Services <i>Parenting support and development programmes run by Māori Women's Welfare League</i>	Positive	Low	Speculative prospect
Brainwave Trust parenting programme (Growing Great Brains and Tiakina te Taimait)	Slightly positive	Low	Low impact

Food Secure Communities

- The reprioritisation of funding to invest \$15m in 2025/26 to continue the Food Secure Communities programme for one more year (at 2024/25 levels) will fund:
 - existing national and regional food distribution infrastructure to cost-effectively distribute bulk and rescued food
 - community-based food security initiatives giving them more time to transition to self-sustaining funding models
 - community-level food providers, including foodbanks
 - an evaluation of the programme within the wider food support ecosystem to enable the development of more self-sustaining pathways for food security.
- MSD will continue to work with other agencies and community partners to explore ways to transition the Food Secure Communities work programme onto a more self-sustaining basis.