

Aide-mémoire



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

Meeting

Date: 25 March 2025 **Security Level:** BUDGET SENSITIVE

For: Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/25/3/206

Advice to support your meeting with Hon James Meager to discuss Budget 2025

Meeting/visit details 7:30pm – 8:00pm, Tuesday 25 March 2025
Room 5.1L EW

Expected attendees Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth

Purpose of meeting/visit This meeting is to discuss Budget 2025 proposals for the Youth portfolio within Vote Social Development.

MSD advice Following your bilateral meeting with the Minister of Finance, MSD understands that the Treasury has provided advice to the Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Chris Bishop) regarding the parenting programmes initiative as one of the Social Investment proposals. We are also meeting with SIA officials on 27 March 2025 to discuss the bid, and can provide an update following this.

MSD understands that the Minister of Finance is planning to speak with the Minister for Youth regarding the Ākonga initiative, but we don't know when this is scheduled to take place. The Minister was not supportive of this initiative.

Talking points

- As you're aware, as part of Budget 2025 I proposed to reprioritise \$40m over four years from Vote Social Development to support three initiatives:
 - 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).
- These initiatives will help to deliver on the priorities in the refreshed Child and Youth Strategy.
- You also proposed reprioritising funding to extend the Ākonga Community Fund.
- I met with the Minister of Finance on 5 March to discuss my wider package for Budget 2025.
- As part of this meeting, we discussed these reprioritisation proposals.
- The Minister of Finance has agreed to progress the KickStart breakfast programme and KidsCan jacket initiatives.
- The Minister agreed to consider the parenting programme initiative as part of the Social Investment Budget envelope.
- I understand the Minister is planning to speak to you about your Ākonga initiative. She did provide feedback about not wanting to continue funding for programmes that were created or established during COVID.

Next steps

Cabinet will agree the Budget 2025 package on 14 April 2025.

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