

Coversheet

Budget 2021 - MSD main benefit increase release

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

These documents have been proactively released.

1. 13 Nov 2020 – Report REP/20/11/1081 - Advice on different options for increasing main benefits
2. 20 Nov 2020 – Report REP/20/11/1107 - Implementation advice on increasing main benefits and complementary changes to other settings
3. 8 Mar 2021 – Aide-memoire REP/21/3/215 - Budget 2021 - Main benefit increases and other income support initiatives
4. 26 Mar 2021 – Report REP/21/3/307 - Increases to beneficiary incomes as a result of recent income support changes and the proposed Budget 2021 benefit rate increase
5. 30 Apr 2021 – Joint Report REP/21/4/423 - Budget 2021 Main Benefit Increase – Background Material for Communication Material, including:
 - o Background document - Main benefit increase and complimentary changes
6. 7 May 2021 – Report REP/21/5/455 - Budget 2021 Main Benefit Rate Increases and Related Regulatory Changes
7. 13 May 2021 – Report REP/21/5/476 - Establishing the Benefit Rate Increase (Transitional Assistance) Programme 2021 and related changes for Budget 2021
8. 18 May 2021 – Aide-memoire REP/21/5/499 - Budget 2021 Main Benefit Rate Increases and Related Regulatory Changes
9. Budget Bid Template Budget 2021 main benefit increase initiative.

The above papers outline the advice provided by MSD, and joint agencies, on prospective benefit rate increases and complementary changes for Budget 2021. The papers capture:

- advice provided in the lead up to, and after, the Budget 2021 bid process relating to potential benefit rate increase options,
- the Budget 2021 main benefit rate increase bid,
- advice progressing the legislative instruments to give effect to the main benefit rate increases and complementary changes, and
- background documents and communications material to support the announcement of the initiatives.

The advice above is part of a wider pack of papers on options to increase benefit rates for Budget 2021. External agencies are leading the release of the wider pack of papers, in consultation with the Ministry of Social Development.

Much of the information is largely in the public domain, following announcements of the wider Budget 2021 initiatives. Redactions will remain where content is still being actively considered or where there are privacy considerations. This is the key to the redaction codes used for this release:

- Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) - the confidentiality of advice under active consideration.

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