



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Disability System Transformation: Establishing a Ministry for Disabled People and National Implementation of the Enabling Good Lives Approach

Portfolios **Disability Issues / Health**

On 29 September 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

Background

1 **noted** that:

- 1.1 in March 2021, Cabinet noted that the Minister for Disability Issues and Minister of Health would bring advice on the future model and governance of Disability Support Services to Cabinet in September 2021 [CAB-21-MIN-0092];
- 1.2 in June 2021, SWC noted that the Minister for Disability Issues intended to report back in September 2021 seeking key decisions on transforming Disability Support Services and the broader cross-government disability support system and outlining initial plans for the national expansion of Enabling Good Lives [SWC-21-MIN-0076];

Machinery of government

- 2 **agreed** to establish a new Ministry, provisionally named the Ministry for Disabled People, in the form of a departmental agency hosted by the Ministry of Social Development;
- 3 **authorised** the Minister for the Public Service, the Minister for Disability Issues and the Minister of Health to determine the final name of the new Ministry, in consultation with the disability community and key stakeholders;
- 4 **noted** the intention that the new Ministry will be established by 1 July 2022 but that it will take longer for the new agency to be fully operational;
- 5 **agreed** that relevant Disability Support Services functions, including responsibility for the national implementation of the Enabling Good Lives approach, will transition from the Ministry of Health to the new Ministry;
- 6 **agreed** that the new Ministry will be responsible for driving improved outcomes for disabled people across government, which requires an expanded mandate and new disability-related responsibilities and functions, including a strategic policy function;

- 7 **noted** that any functions resulting from Cabinet decisions on the Accelerating Accessibility work programme will be considered as part of decisions on the new Ministry’s future work programme;
- 8 **noted** that due diligence will need to be undertaken to establish the new Ministry as a departmental agency hosted by the Ministry of Social Development;
- 9 **invited** the Minister for the Public Service to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for an Order in Council to establish the departmental agency by adding it to Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020;
- 10 **noted** that the chief executive for the new departmental agency (or acting chief executive if appointed) will work with the Ministries of Health and Social Development to implement the transition to the new Ministry;
- 11 **agreed** to set up a dedicated Transition Team within the Ministry of Social Development to support the establishment of the new Ministry;
- 12 **noted** that the Transition Team will work with established disability community groups to ensure that the voices of disabled people and whānau shape the establishment of the new Ministry, including the work of the Transition Team;
- 13 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 13.1 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 13.2 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 14 **noted** that funding for the 2021/2022 financial year for the Transition Team and initial establishment costs is being sought now, s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 15 **agreed** to establish the following new appropriation within Vote Social Development:

Appropriation Minister	Appropriation Type	Title	Scope
Minister for Disability Issues	Departmental Output Expense	Establishing a Ministry for Disabled People	This appropriation is limited to establishing, and managing the transition to, a Ministry for Disabled People

- 16 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 11 above, with a corresponding impact on operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Social Development Minister for Disability Issues	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Establishing a Ministry for Disabled People (funded by revenue Crown)	5.000	-	-	-	-
Total	5.000	-	-	-	-

- 17 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 18 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 16 above be charged against the Between-Budget Contingency established as part of Budget 2021;
- 19 **agreed** that any underspends in the Departmental Output Expense, Establishing a Ministry for Disabled People, for the year ending 30 June 2022, be transferred to the following financial year to ensure that funding is available for any remaining transitional activities;
- 20 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Disability Issues to jointly agree the final amount to be transferred as per recommendation 19, following completion of the 2021/22 audited financial statements of the Ministry of Social Development (or sooner if necessary), with no impact on the operating balance across the forecast period;

National implementation of the Enabling Good Lives approach

- 21 **agreed** to implement the Enabling Good Lives approach to Disability Support Services nationally, ^{9(2)(f)(iv)} [REDACTED]
- 22 **endorsed** the implementation plan attached under SWC-21-SUB-0146 to implement the Enabling Good Lives approach to Disability Support Services on a national scale;
- 23 **agreed** that in the initial phase of national implementation of the Enabling Good Lives approach:
- 23.1 the eligibility criteria should be the same as the current eligible population for Disability Support Services (with the clarification that all children with significant developmental delay but no confirmed diagnosis, regardless of age, are eligible for early intervention support);
 - 23.2 means testing should not apply to people who have a flexible personal budget;
 - 23.3 means testing on household management should continue to apply while people continue to receive a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination allocated package during the transition period;
- 24 **agreed** that the following funding streams be included in personal budgets for eligible people in the initial phase of national implementation:
- 24.1 Vote Health: National Disability Support Services appropriation;
 - 24.2 the 'Very High Needs', 'Community Participation', and 'Transition from School' funding streams from the Vote Social Development: Community Participation appropriation;
- 25 **agreed** that the following funding streams from Vote Social Development are not included:
- 25.1 Business Enterprise funding;
 - 25.2 Support Funds paid on behalf of disabled people;

Next steps

- 26 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 27 **invited** the Minister for Disability Issues and Minister of Health to report back to SWC in early 2022 with further detail on:
- 27.1 establishing the new Ministry, including relevant transitional arrangements;
 - 27.2 implementing the Enabling Good Lives approach on a national scale;
 - 27.3 future opportunities for further disability system transformation once the new Ministry is established and fully operational;
 - 27.4 the future of the Office for Disability Issues, including recommendations on its future location within government.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the SWC Chair
Officials Committee for SWC