



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Social Security (Subsequent Child Policy Removal) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 18 March 2021, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in July 2020, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:
 - 1.1 noted that the subsequent child policy was introduced in 2012 and impacts eligibility for Sole Parent Support and places obligations on parents to return to work earlier if they have an additional child while receiving a main benefit;
 - 1.2 noted that the Welfare Expert Advisory Group recommended removing the subsequent child work obligation;
 - 1.3 agreed to the removal of the subsequent child policy, to be given effect from November 2021;

[SWC-20-MIN-0101]
- 2 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment is seeking a category 2 priority for the Social Security (Subsequent Child Policy Removal) Amendment Bill (the Bill) on the 2021 Legislation Programme (must be passed in the year);
- 3 **noted** that the Bill amends the Social Security Act 2018 and Social Security Regulations 2018, to remove the subsequent child policy;
- 4 **approved** for introduction the Social Security (Subsequent Child Policy Removal) Amendment Bill [PCO 23369/1.8], subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 5 **agreed** that the Bill be introduced by 25 March 2021;
- 6 **agreed** that the government propose that the Bill be:
 - 6.1 referred to the Social Services and Community Committee for consideration;
 - 6.2 enacted by 11 October 2021;

7 **noted** that the Bill contains two parts:

- 7.1 part 2 comes into force on 11 October 2021, to allow for the 28-day transition period prior to the policy's removal; and
- 7.2 part 1 comes into force on 8 November 2021.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Michael Wood (Deputy Chair)
Keiran McAnulty, MP (Senior Government Whip)

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG

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Minister for Social Development and Employment