



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Support for Communities and Community Providers Significantly Impacted by Flooding

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 13 February 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that individuals, families and whānau in Auckland and other regions have been severely negatively impacted by flooding events;
- 2 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment recommends that further supports be provided to NGOs and for community recovery in response to the floods;
- 3 **agreed** to a fiscally neutral package, using Care in the Community welfare programme underspends, with the following funds to support communities and providers in Auckland and other regions impacted by recent flooding, until 30 June 2023:
 - 3.1 community support fund: Up to \$2.0 million for community groups supporting affected communities and whānau with the highest needs (capped at \$3,500 per community group);
 - 3.2 community providers response and wellbeing fund: Up to \$4.0 million for community providers providing immediate relief to affected communities and whānau (capped at \$7,000 per community provider);
 - 3.3 food fund: Up to \$1.0 million to reset food stock levels among community food providers, including bulk purchasing essential items;
 - 3.4 addressing the needs of disabled people: \$0.5 million will be ringfenced to address the welfare needs of the disabled community, which will require direct engagement with disabled communities and may include funding for additional support for disabled people or providers who have been affected by recent floods;
- 4 **noted** that funding will be targeted to providers in the most affected communities including Māori, Pacific, children and youth, ethnic communities, and disability communities and will consider cross-agency investment to minimise duplication;
- 5 **agreed** to expand the scope of Community Connectors to support people impacted by recent flooding in Auckland and other impacted regions, in addition to those impacted by COVID-19;
- 6 **agreed** to make an additional \$4.0 million in discretionary funding available from Care in the Community underspends, to enable Community Connectors to deliver support, which will be capped at \$1,000 per household impacted by the flooding events covered above;

- 7 **noted** that a s 9(2)(f)(iv) underspend is forecast for 2022/23 for the Care in the Community programme within the Community Support Services MCA, and this is available to support people impacted by recent flooding in Auckland and other impacted regions;
- 8 **agreed** to use up to \$11.5 million from the Care in the Community welfare programme underspend to support people impacted by recent flooding in Auckland and other impacted regions;
- 9 **agreed** to transfer \$5.813 million from within the Community Support Services MCA from Community Support and Advice category to Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events category, in order to rebalance between output classes for the purpose of the decisions in paragraphs 3, 6 and 8;
- 10 **approved** the following change to the indicative spending profile between categories of a MCA to give effect to the policy decisions in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, with no impact on the overall appropriation:

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development and Employment	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure					
Community Support Services					
Non-Departmental Output Expense:					
Community Support and Advice	(5.813)	-	-	-	-
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	5.813	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

- 11 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Minister of Finance are due to receive further advice on the Care in the Community welfare funding in March 2023, which will take into account decisions made above;
- 12 **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development will provide regular updates to the Minister for Social Development and Employment;
- 13 **directed** the Ministry of Social Development to report back to the Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Minister of Finance on the use and distribution of the above support package by the end of July 2023.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet