





















**Impact Analysis**

**Regulatory Impact Statement**

49 Regulatory impact statement requirements do not apply to the proposals in the paper.

**Climate Implications of Policy Assessment**

50 There are no climate impacts arising from the proposals in the paper.

**Population Implications**

<b>Population group</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Māori communities	<p>Māori communities may be more likely to have older people, kaumātua and kuia, who may not have easy access to communication, which is a particular concern in times of emergency. NGOs which focus on supporting Māori whānau are particularly stretched - for example, more than half of s 9(2)(a) staff were themselves affected with flood damaged homes and vehicles - reducing the ability for these NGOs to support their communities. These NGOs have been crucial in supporting whānau through the flooding emergency. Māori communities may also be more likely to live in housing that is crowded, so may have particular difficulty finding appropriate housing to meet their needs following floods, such as in finding new accomodation. Whānau Ora providers have played a particular key role so far in supporting Māori communities to respond to flooding, and will continue to do aso as the emergency unfolds.</p>
Pacific communities	<p>Pacific communities are known to be more likely to live in housing that is crowded, and are likely to have lower income available to respond to emergencies. As such, Pacific communities may be less able to meet their immediate needs as a result of the flood, and may have particular difficulty finding appropriate housing to meet their family’s needs. For Pacific communities, negative impacts and stressors are not limited to those in geographically affected flood areas because of the collectivisation and redistribution of material resources and supports through Pacific family relationships. This means more far-reaching spill over effects across Pacific communities in Aotearoa, which we may last longer given the already inequitable social and economic outcomes for Pacific peoples. NGOs and community groups which focus on supporting</p>

Population group	Impact
	Pacific communities, including Whānau Ora providers, play an important role in mitigating the impacts on Pacific peoples.
Disabled people	<p>Disabled people may be at heightened risk during emergencies such as floods, including because of challenges regarding mobility. Furthermore, communications about an emergency response from across government should be in accessible formats and through appropriate communications lines for disabled people. Disabled people may be less able to access supports, such as specialised health care, on which they rely on a daily basis.</p> <p>All of the impacts of the floods will have been felt keenly by the disability community. Key priorities for disabled people are keeping safe, having access to food and other essential supports, access to services and programmes if relocated, and having somewhere to stay which meets their accessibility needs.</p> <p>Disabled people experience additional barriers and disruptions to their wellbeing and accessibility in an emergency response. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information is not always available in accessible formats in a timely manner</li> <li>• communication channels can be complex to navigate</li> <li>• accessible housing shortages make finding suitable alternative accommodation more difficult, and if relocated creates barriers to involvement in community programmes and services.</li> </ul> <p>Disabled people can have additional costs that non-disabled people can avoid (for example, a person with a physical impairment may need to pay someone to clean their home).</p> <p>Parents of disabled children have also reported additional stress from delays in getting children back to school – expected routines have been disrupted, causing particular stress for some whānau.</p> <p>Engagement undertaken with disabled people, their representative organisations, Disability Support Service providers and other NGOs identified a need to support disabled people whose essential regular transport is disrupted by the flooding event.</p> <p>NGOs and Community Connectors which have a particular focus on disabled people will be engaged to form a key part of the flood response.</p>

Population group	Impact
Seniors	<p>Seniors may be at hightened risk of injury or isolation during floods, and be less able to access supports on which they rely on a daily basis, such as regular medical assistance in dressing or support in getting dressed. Accessible and easy to understand communication with seniors and older people during times of emergency is especially important.</p> <p>NGOs and Community Connectors which have a particular focus on seniors will be engaged to form a key part of the flood response.</p>
Children and young people	<p>Due to Auckland schools closing as a result of the floods may contribute to recent school disengagement. Parents of children and young people have also reported additional stress from delays in getting children back to school – expected routines have been disrupted, causing particular stress for some whānau. This may have significant long-term impacts if young people remain disengaged from education for a long period of time.</p> <p>Community Connectors have recently had an additional focus on supporting young people to re-engage in learning following disruption caused by COVID-19.</p>
Ethnic Communities	<p>A significant proportion of New Zealand’s ethnic communities are based in Auckland and were significantly affected by the recent floods. These communities significantly relied on community provider assistance during floods for help. Our ethnic communities have diverse and varying needs, and any assistance provided needs to be tailored accordingly. Specific support is needed for vulnerable groups such as ethnic woman and older people.</p>

**Human Rights**

51 The proposals in this paper are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

**Consultation**

52 The package was informed by discussions with the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Te Puni Kōkiri, Whaikaha, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Office for Disability Issues, Office for Seniors, and the Treasury. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were informed.

## Communications

53 I intend to announce this package once Cabinet has made these decisions.

## Proactive Release

54 I intend this Cabinet Paper be proactively released within standard timeframes.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1 **note** that individuals, families and whānau in the Auckland and other regions have been severely negatively impacted by flooding events
- 2 **note** the Minister for Social Development and Employment recommends further supports to be provided to NGOs and for community recovery in response to the floods
- 3 **agree** 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 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 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 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. This 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 **note** 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 **agree** 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

**IN - CONFIDENCE**

- 6 **agree** to make an additional \$4 million in discretionary funding available from Care in Community underspends, to enable Community Connectors to deliver this support, this will be capped at \$1,000 per household impacted by the flooding events covered for these proposals
- 7 **note** that a s 9(2)(f)(iv) underspend is forecast for 2022/23 for the Care in 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 **agree** 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 **agree** 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 recommendations 3, 6 and 8
- 10 **approve** the following change to the indicative spending profile between categories of a MCA to give effect to the policy decisions in recommendations 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
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure</b>					
Community Support Services					
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</b> Community Support and Advice	(5.813)	-	-	-	-
<b>Non-Departmental Other Expense:</b> Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	5.813	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	-	-	-	-

- 11 **note** 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 in this paper
- 12 **note** that the Ministry of Social Development will provide regular updates to the Minister for Social Development and Employment
- 13 **invite** the Ministry of Social Development provide a report back to the Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Minister of Finance on the use and distribution of this support package by the end of July 2023.

Authorised for lodgement  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Minister for Social Development and Employment

## **Appendix A: Summary of existing mechanisms for households and groups to receive support**

### **Whānau Ora**

Whānau Ora, while providing immediate support are also looking to potential short and long-term needs of whānau. Whānau already struggling with the cost of living have had to divert resources allocated to certain kaupapa (such as school resources) to clean up their homes (rent and own). Commissioning Agencies may have resources available within their baselines due to financial variances at this time of year, which they are at liberty to reprioritise to support flood response activities.

### **Pasifika Futures**

Pasifika Futures have been providing regular dashboard reports outlining expenditure, engagement, support provided and intel of immediate whānau and provider needs.

To date Pasifika Futures has spent \$1.8 million in support, engaged with 5520 individuals, relocated 34 families and have 15 providers who have so far provided 3489 support packages.

Immediate support included access to food, accommodation, healthcare, mental health, translation services, pastoral care support, insurance and social service support. Their call centre is also actively triaging families and providing support.

### **MBIE fund for Auckland businesses**

A \$5 million package of emergency support for businesses significantly impacted by flooding in the Auckland region was recently approved. It includes three components:

- 54.1 up to \$1.0 million for advice for small businesses, focusing on business continuity and resilience at community level
- 54.2 up to \$1.0 million for mental wellbeing support through a boost to the existing First Steps programme, and
- 54.3 up to \$3.0 million for discretionary flood recovery disbursements to support significantly impacted businesses.

### **MBIE Temporary Accommodation Service**

- 55 MBIE is supporting emergency response efforts through its Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS), Building Emergency Management (BEM) team, Residential Advisory Service (RAS), and MBIE Emergency Management, Business Continuity team (EMBC).
- 56 TAS activated on 8 February 2023 for the Auckland floods that took place on 27 January 2023. People can register their details via the website [www.tas.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.tas.mbie.govt.nz) or call 0508 754 163 to discuss their needs. The TAS team will contact those registered to assess needs and work with them to help find suitable temporary housing.

- 57 TAS is working closely with Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) to ensure a seamless transition for people in emergency accommodation into the Temporary Accommodation Service.
- 58 TAS is also assisting and supporting AEM with current emergency accommodation placements and logistics.
- 59 TAS is working closely with the National Emergency Management Agency, Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups and other Government Agencies including Ministry of Social Development and Kāinga Ora.

## Department of Internal Affairs

### *Community and Volunteering Capability Fund*

The Community and Volunteering Capability Fund provides grants to not-for-profit organisations for services and projects that improve leadership and strengthen the capability and capacity of New Zealand's diverse community and voluntary sector. Sector leadership and Volunteering are both priorities within this existing fund and can be quickly mobilised to respond to this event. This is an existing fund that can easily be mobilised for dealing with volunteer wellbeing. \$1 million is available for distribution each year and it has been oversubscribed at a ratio of 2:1 for the past three years.

### *COGS – Community Organisation Grants Scheme*

This scheme provides government-funded grants to support voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working in local communities and neighbourhoods.

COGS committees prioritise community-based organisations delivering services to one or more of these priority sectors:

- Māori
- women
- Pacific communities
- other ethnic communities
- older people
- rurally isolated people
- people with disabilities
- families
- youth and children
- unemployed people
- community-based organisations with limited access to other government funding.

For the four Auckland based COGS Local Distribution Committees there has been from \$2 million to \$3.5 million available for distribution from 2019 to 2022. This fund has been oversubscribed at a ratio of 5:1, 4:1 and 3:1 for the past three years respectively.



*Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund Emergency Natural Disaster Relief Fund*

The Lottery Grants Board (the Board) holds an Emergency Natural Disaster Reserve (ENDR) for the purpose of providing quick-access support to communities affected by an emergency natural disaster event. In this instance, an 'emergency natural disaster' is defined as a natural event that has been declared a Civil Defence Emergency by the relevant authority. The Fund has been activated to support the flood response in the Auckland, Northland, and Waikato regions.

The distribution of this is managed through an annual allocation of the reserve to a sub-programme of the Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF); the Emergency Natural Disaster Relief Fund (ENDRF). The Department has the delegated decision-making authority for the ENDRF, up to the value of \$499,999 per emergency event. Should this amount be fully allocated and there remains significant community need for the same event, approval from the Minister of Internal Affairs must be sought for additional funds to be allocated.

ENDRF funding is distributed through a relational approach and the Department's regional Community Advisory teams are currently working alongside local authorities and community leaders in Auckland, Northland, and Waikato, to determine the level of support required to respond to the flooding events.

Funding can be utilised to support initiatives and activities that:

- assist community organisations that provide support services and have seen an increased demand for their services due to a natural disaster event
- repair, restore or revitalise community facilities that have been damaged by a natural disaster event
- provide partnership funding for work with other government agencies or non-profit groups with a shared purpose of supporting communities affected by a natural disaster event

**Ministry of Social Development**

*Civil Defence payments*

These include support for food, bedding, clothing, accommodation (non-recoverable) and furniture and whiteware (non-recoverable). There is no income or asset test. However, these are only available during a declared state of emergency (the current one in Auckland has been extended to 10 February).

*Hardship assistance*

This includes support for food (non-recoverable) and clothes, beds, furniture, appliances, school stationery and uniforms (generally recoverable, but may be non-recoverable in exceptional circumstances decided on a case-by-case basis). This is targeted at very low-income households (whether or not MSD clients), so subject to income and assets tests.

### *Enhanced Taskforce Green*

This is a temporary employment programme in which people (usually beneficiaries) receive assistance to help clean up regions following an emergency. Uninsured households may benefit from clean-up of their properties.

### *Rural Assistance Payments*

These are payments to farmers during flooding and other adverse events. They are aimed at assisting households whose main income is farming (includes horticulture, etc.) and who are facing difficulties in meeting their living costs as a result of the adverse event. While not aimed at replacing uninsured contents, uninsured farming households will benefit from these assistance payments.

### **National Emergency Management Agency**

- 60 Under Section 33 of the Guide to the National Civil Defence and Emergency Management Plan, The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Financial support to Local Authorities after an emergency event covers:
- 60.1 Contributions to Local Authority Disaster Relief Funds (usually Mayoral Relief Funds) – more detail below.
  - 60.2 Reimbursement of welfare costs incurred by local authorities in caring for directly affected people in an emergency – more detail below.
  - 60.3 Precautions or preventative actions to reduce the immediate danger to human life during response period and reduce the potential consequences of an emergency in the period immediately before the emergency
  - 60.4 Essential infrastructure and recovery repairs

### *Contributions to Local Authority Disaster Relief Funds (usually Mayoral Relief Funds)*

These are grants to local authorities for disbursement to support the needs of households, community organisations, small businesses, and marae. Among other things they can be used to support households facing hardship. As they are not intended to replace other funding sources such as welfare payments and insurance, and there is no income test, they potentially fill the gap for uninsured households who are ineligible for MSD Hardship assistance – depending on how the local authority sets its discretionary criteria for fund disbursement.

### *Reimbursement of local authority response (welfare) costs*

These payments reimburse 100% of eligible costs incurred by local authorities in caring for directly affected people (accommodation, transporting, feeding, and clothing) in an emergency. There are formal rules under legislation for any such payments, which are made under permanent legislative authority. There is scope for households to make requests to local authorities for financial assistance, for which local authorities subsequently claim reimbursement.