



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Phased Approach to Strengthening the Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System

Portfolio Social Development and Employment

On 10 April 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment (the Minister) is committed to strengthening the oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system through various changes over the next 12 to 24 months;
- 2 **agreed** in principle, subject to the report back in paragraph 4 below, to strengthening independent monitoring by shifting the Independent Children’s Monitor (the Monitor) to an Independent Crown Entity, which is part of the National-Act coalition agreement;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister is considering clarifying how the Children and Young People’s Commission (the Commission) functions and consolidating its structure and responsibilities by making it a corporation sole Crown entity with a single Commissioner, intended to enhance visibility of its advocacy function;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister intends to report back to Cabinet by late July 2024 to provide the details of the reviews of the Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 and the Children and Young People’s Commission Act 2022 and seek agreement to the changes that will be made to the Monitor and Commission through and Omnibus Bill;
- 5 **noted** the Minister intends to advise the Board of the Commission about taking a proposal to Cabinet to make it a corporation sole Crown entity, after this paper has been agreed to by Cabinet;
- 6 **noted** that, in Budget 2023, Cabinet agreed:
 - 6.1 to establish a tagged operating contingency associated with the Social Development portfolio for the ongoing costs of the Commission:

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	-	7.756	7.756	7.756
Capital Contingency	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	7.756	7.756	7.756

6.2 that any drawdown from the tagged contingency fund was subject to the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment being satisfied with the implementation of the Commission’s strategic objectives and how the new operating model had been implemented;

6.3 the expiry date for the tagged contingency would be 30 June 2024;

7 **noted** that, following adjustments through the Rapid Savings Process, the remaining balance and indicative phasing of the tagged operating contingency fund described above is:

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28& Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	7.368	7.368	7.368	7.368
Capital Contingency	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	7.368	7.368	7.368	7.368

8 **noted** that the Commission will still need some of their tagged contingency fund to support them continuing to function as they currently are, and to achieve their strategic objectives;

9 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

10 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment to jointly draw down the tagged contingency funding in paragraph 7 for:

10.1 the purposes for which the tagged contingency was originally established, as set out at paragraph 6.2;

10.2 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

11 **agreed** that the tagged contingency in paragraph 7 above will now expire on 1 July 2025.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

- Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
- Hon Dr Shane Reti
- Hon Paul Goldsmith
- Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
- Hon Mark Mitchell
- Hon Tama Potaka
- Hon Matt Doocey
- Hon Melissa Lee
- Hon Nicole McKee
- Hon Casey Costello
- Hon Penny Simmonds
- Hon Chris Penk
- Hon Karen Chhour

Officials present from:

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Officials Committee for SOU