



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Refreshing the Child and Youth Strategy and Associated Measures

Portfolio **Child Poverty Reduction**

On 23 October 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that in June 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee invited the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (the Minister) to report back to SOU with a plan to review the child poverty reduction targets and measures [CBC-24-MIN-0056];
- 2 **noted** that the Minister has reviewed options for ensuring that the child poverty reduction targets and measures reflect the Government's priority, which is to focus on a single material hardship measure and target, and does not consider that this objective is best achieved by changing the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 (the Act);
- 3 **noted** that the Minister intends to highlight child material hardship as the Government's key measure and target for reducing child poverty, including by establishing this as a Portfolio Target, and including it as a priority in the refreshed Child and Youth Strategy (the Strategy);
- 4 **noted** that the Minister advised Cabinet in June 2024 of her intention to update the Child Poverty Related Indicators (CPRIs) as part of the refresh of the Strategy [CBC-24-MIN-0056];
- 5 **noted** that the Minister intends to adopt the following five CPRIs, to better reflect the Government's priorities and align with the Government targets:
 - 5.1 children in benefit-dependent households;
 - 5.2 housing affordability;
 - 5.3 school attendance;
 - 5.4 educational achievement; and
 - 5.5 potentially avoidable hospitalisations;
- 6 **agreed** that agencies be responsible for working together to achieve measurable improvements in the CPRIs over time, as part of making progress towards relevant Government targets;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister has reviewed the 2019 Strategy and undertaken the consultation that is legally required when changes to the Strategy are made;

- 8 **noted** that the new Strategy, attached as Appendix 2 to the submission under SOU-24-SUB-0125, retains the current vision and outcomes framework, sets out the Government's targets, policies, and approach to improving child and youth outcomes, and identifies three priorities for further work to address common underlying drivers of poor outcomes:
- 8.1 supporting children, families, and whānau in the first 2,000 days;
 - 8.2 reducing child material hardship; and
 - 8.3 preventing child harm;
- 9 **agreed** to release the Strategy, subject to minor drafting and editorial changes;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister to make minor drafting and editorial changes prior to publication, where necessary;
- 11 **noted** that in July 2019, the previous government directed officials to report to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on a six-monthly basis with an update on the implementation of the Strategy [SWC-19-MIN-0085];
- 12 **agreed** to no longer require the report-back referred to in paragraph 11;
- 13 **noted** that under the Act, the Minister is required to set three-year (2025/26 to 2027/28) and 10-year (2025/26 to 2034/35) child poverty persistence targets by 31 December 2024;
- 14 **noted** that Statistics New Zealand has recently defined persistent poverty based on an income poverty measure, and will provide baseline numbers needed to set targets to the Minister by the end of October 2024;
- 15 **authorised** the Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, to set three-year (2025/26-2027/28) and 10-year (2025/26-2034/35) targets for persistent poverty.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Karen Chhour

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction