



# Cabinet Business Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Social Security (Emergency Housing) Amendment Regulations 2024

**Portfolio**                      **Associate Housing**

On 8 July 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      in March 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee authorised the Minister of Housing, Minister for Social Development and Employment, and Associate Minister of Housing (joint Ministers) to take policy decisions to tighten the gateway to emergency housing [SOU-24-MIN-0008];
  - 1.2      on 24 April 2024, joint Ministers agreed to revised eligibility settings and the introduction of a new responsibilities/warning framework for recipients of emergency housing grants;
- 2        **noted** that changes to tighten the gateway to emergency housing will:
  - 2.1      be more rules-based, making it easier for the Ministry of Social Development to administer and provide clearer expectations for emergency housing users;
  - 2.2      reduce the risk of people being in emergency housing only to ensure they are prioritised for social housing; and
  - 2.3      ensure emergency housing grants are provided to those in genuine need who have met their responsibilities;
- 3        **noted** that joint Ministers also agreed to the establishment, under section 101 of the Social Security Act 2018, of a standalone welfare programme for emergency housing (the Emergency Housing Grants Programme) as part of the emergency housing gateway changes, which requires the transfer of relevant emergency housing provisions out of the Special Needs Grants Programme;
- 4        **noted** that the Associate Minister of Housing is satisfied that in respect of section 448 of the Social Security Act 2018 the relevant requirements have been met;

- 5 **noted** that due to the establishment of the Emergency Housing Grants Programme referred to in paragraph 3 above, the Social Security (Emergency Housing) Amendment Regulations 2024 seek consequential amendments to the Social Security Regulations 2018 to:
- 5.1 amend the definition of “emergency housing contribution” to reference the new Emergency Housing Grants Programme instead of the Special Needs Grants Programme;
  - 5.2 amend the provision on rate of recovery of a debt that is related to emergency housing contribution to reference the new Emergency Housing Grants Programme instead of the Special Needs Grants Programme; and
  - 5.3 add a new clause to ensure existing regulations will continue to apply to people who are paying emergency housing contribution under current settings once amendments come into force;
- 6 **noted** that in July 2024, the Associate Minister of Housing expects to approve the new Emergency Housing Grants Programme and additional consequential amendments to the:
- 6.1 Special Needs Grants Programme;
  - 6.2 Flexible Funding Programme;
  - 6.3 Ministerial Direction on Redirection of Benefit Payments (given on 17 March 2015);
- 7 **authorised** the submission of the Social Security (Emergency Housing) Amendment Regulations 2024 to the Executive Council [PCO 26489/7.0];
- 8 **noted** that the Social Security (Emergency Housing) Amendment Regulations 2024 will come into force concurrently with the Emergency Housing Grants Programme on 26 August 2024.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Tama Potaka

**Officials present from:**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet