



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Lake Alice Payments Amendment Regulations 2025

**Portfolio**                      **Social Development and Employment**

On 24 July 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in December 2024, Cabinet agreed to additional redress payments for survivors who were tortured at the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit (the Lake Alice Unit) and also agreed:
  - 1.1      that the redress payments recognising torture and any income derived from these payments made to former patients of the Lake Alice Unit will be made on an ex-gratia basis, and are consequently exempt from being treated as cash assets or income for tax or benefit purposes; and
  - 1.2      to amend Schedule 8 of the Social Security Regulations 2018 and Schedule 3 of the Residential Care and Disability Support Services Regulations 2018 to extend the permanent exemption on ex-gratia or compensation payments being treated as income and cash assets to former patients of the Lake Alice Unit;
- [CAB-24-MIN-0516]
- 2        **noted** that Cabinet had earlier agreed to make other payments to survivors of the Lake Alice Unit [CAB-24-MIN-0300, SOU-24-MIN-0123], and that the first of the payments made under these agreements were made in August 2024;
- 3        **noted** that the Amendment Regulations referred to in paragraph 6 below will give effect to the decision referred to in paragraph 1.2 above;
- 4        **noted** that a waiver of the 28-day rule is sought on the grounds that the Amendment Regulations confer only benefits on the public as long as they are in place prior to 12 August 2025;
- 5        **agreed** to waive the 28-day rule so that the Amendment Regulations can come into force on 1 August 2025;
- 6        **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the:
  - 6.1      Social Security (Cash Assets and Income Exemptions—Lake Alice Compensation or Ex Gratia Payments) Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 28127/4.0]; and

6.2 Residential Care and Disability Support Services (Exempt Assets—Lake Alice Compensation or Ex Gratia Payments) Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 28128/4.0].

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon James Meager  
Stuart Smith, MP  
Todd Stephenson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Office of the Minister for the Public Service