

# Report



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

**Date:** 27 August 2025      **Security Level:** In-Confidence  
**To:** Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction  
**File Reference:** REP/25/8/659

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## Draft Cabinet paper – Government Response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper:
  - 1.1 provides you with a draft of the Cabinet paper - Government Response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review
  - 1.2 seeks your agreement to a proactive release process for papers relating to the Dame Karen Poutasi response work.

### Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **provide** your feedback on the draft Cabinet paper *Government Response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review* (attached as Appendix A)
- 2 **note** that officials are available to discuss your feedback at the Child Poverty Reduction officials meeting on 1 September
- 3 **agree** to circulate the Cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation from Wednesday 3 September to Tuesday 9 September 2025

**Yes / No**

- 4 **s 9(2)(f)(iv)**

5 **agree** to a process to prepare papers for proactive release, with the first shortly after your announcement planned for October 2025

**Yes / No**



27 / 08 / 2025

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Hannah Kerr  
Director, Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group

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Date


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Hon Louise Upston  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

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Date

## Background

- 2 You asked officials to develop a high-level, direction-setting Cabinet paper on the Government response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review of the children's system. The draft paper notes that the Government accepts all of the recommendations and outlines an integrated all-of-Government approach to implementation, focussed on safeguarding children.
- 3 We have consulted with relevant agencies and chief executives in the development of the draft Cabinet paper, which is attached as Appendix A.
- 4  s  
9(2)  
(f)(iv)

## Public interest

- 5 You have indicated that you intend to make an announcement outlining the direction of travel for the Poutasi Review recommendations, following Cabinet discussion of the paper. This is likely to generate requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982. A wide range of stakeholders may be impacted, given the number of groups who work with children and who are therefore likely to be impacted by the mandatory training and reporting regime in particular.
- 6 To manage these requests, we recommend a process to prepare key papers for quarterly proactive release, with the first shortly after your announcement. If you agree, we will work with your office on the timing of this.

## Next steps

- 7 Officials are working to the following timeframes on the Cabinet paper:

| Step   | Timeframes                         |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Officials are available to discuss your feedback on the paper at the Child Poverty Reduction officials meeting | Monday 1 September                 |
| Updated paper to the office for Ministerial and agency consultation  | Tuesday 2 September                |
| Agency and Ministerial consultation (parallel)   | Wednesday 3 to Tuesday 9 September |
| Send final paper to Minister Upston  | Wednesday 10 September             |
| Lodgement  | Thursday 11 September              |
| SOU Committee consideration  | Wednesday 17 September             |
| Cabinet confirmation   | Monday 22 September                |
| Ministerial announcement of direction of travel  | October – date TBC                 |

## **Appendix**

Appendix A. Draft Cabinet paper – *Government Response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review*

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