CBC-26-MIN-0001

Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Annual General Adjustment 2026

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 23 February 2026, the Cabinet Business Committee:

1 **noted** that, acting with Cabinet's delegated authority [CAB Min (02) 7/1A], the Ministers responsible for the Finance, Housing, Health, Social Development and Employment, Universities, Veterans, and Children portfolios have approved new rates of New Zealand Superannuation, main benefits, Student Allowances, Foster Care Allowance Minimum Rates of Payment for Board and Lodgings, and new rates and thresholds for allowances and supplementary assistance;

2 **noted** that the Orders in Council and Amendment Regulations attached to the submission under CBC-26-SUB-0001 will come into effect on 1 April 2026 and will:

2.1 increase the rates of main benefits, Student Allowances, Orphan's Benefit, Unsupported Child's Benefit, Foster Care Allowance Minimum Rates of Payment for Board and Lodgings, benefits payable to long-term hospital patients, and New Zealand Superannuation, to comply with the statutory requirement to adjust the rates to reflect the 3.11 percent increase in the Consumers Price Index (All Groups) (CPI) over the previous year;

2.2 increase rates and thresholds of allowances and various forms of supplementary assistance in line with the 3.11 percent increase in CPI over the previous year;

2.3 increase income thresholds for Disability Allowance and the Community Services Card by applying the 3.11 percent increase in CPI over the previous year;

2.4 increase Childcare Assistance and hardship assistance income thresholds to reflect the 2.91 percent increase in the net average wage over the previous year;

3 **agreed** to waive the 28-day rule, on the grounds that the amendments only confer benefits to those affected, so that the amendments can come into force on 1 April 2026;

4 **authorised** the submission of the following Orders and Amendment Regulations to the Executive Council:

4.1 Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order 2026 [PCO 28629/2.0];

4.2 Social Security Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28630/2.0];

4.3 Student Allowances Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28632/2.0];

4.4 Oranga Tamariki (Minimum Rates of Payment for Board and Lodgings) Order 2026 [PCO 28635/2.0];

4.5 Health Entitlement Cards Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28634/4.0];

4.6 Residential Care and Disability Support Services Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28631/4.0].

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones

Officials present from:
Office of the Prime Minister
Officials' Committee for CBC