



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Supporting Carers' Contributions: Carers' Strategy Action Plan

Portfolio **Associate Social Development and Employment**

On 5 August 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Government introduced the New Zealand Carers' Strategy in 2008 with the vision to ensure that "New Zealand Aotearoa is a society that values individuals, families, whānau, or aiga who support others who need help with their everyday living";
- 2 **noted** that in November 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):
 - 2.1 agreed in principle to the government commitments outlined in the draft Carers' Strategy Action Plan;
 - 2.2 invited the Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment (the Associate Minister) to report back to SOU in 2026 with the final Action Plan, which considers consultation feedback, and advice on ongoing governance structures for the Action Plan;

[SOU-25-MIN-0149]
- 3 **agreed** to the ongoing Mahi Aroha Carers' Strategy Action Plan (the Action Plan), attached under ECO-26-SUB-0148;
- 4 **noted** that the Action Plan is intended to be launched and released in early September 2026;
- 5 **noted** that the Associate Minister intends to use the Social Sector Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) group, with oversight from the Social Sector Chief Executive (CE) group, as required, to deliver a higher level of governance oversight for the New Zealand Carers' Strategy and the Action Plan;
- 6 **noted** that the agencies listed as partnered or contributing to the Action Plan will work collaboratively following the launch to develop a work programme and deliver on the Action Plan's initial steps within 1 to 3 years of the launch;
- 7 **noted** that implementation of the Action Plan will include linking with existing and planned work across agencies to ensure a broad range of carers are considered, and that the application of the Action Plan is clearly understood across agency responsibilities;
- 8 **noted** that the Associate Minister intends to return to Cabinet in due course with a cross-agency implementation and monitoring and evaluation approach;

- 9 **authorised** the Ministry of Social Development to make minor editorial, design, and formatting changes to the Action Plan as required prior to its public release.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for ECO