



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Social Sector Commissioning: Progress Principles and Next Steps

Portfolio **Social Development**

On 29 July 2020, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in late 2018, the Minister for Social Development asked the Social Wellbeing Board to start work improving how government works with social services in order to support the wellbeing of people and communities;
- 2 **noted** that since 2018, there have been substantive improvements to parts of social sector commissioning by government, including:
 - 2.1 a shift to multi-year contracts for most programmes and initiatives;
 - 2.2 significant investment to address historical underfunding, especially in many family and children services;
 - 2.3 more client centred co-design and innovation in programmes and initiatives;
 - 2.4 simplification of the contracting and procurement;
 - 2.5 greater partnering with iwi, hapū and Māori communities;
 - 2.6 development of an integrated health, social and education services commissioning approach for Pacific communities;
 - 2.7 investment in the knowledge infrastructure of the sector;
- 3 **noted** that social services were an important part of the COVID-19 response;
- 4 **agreed in principle** to the six commissioning principles outlined in the *Social Sector Commissioning: progress, principles and next steps* attached to the paper under SWC-20-SUB-0015, **subject to** further engagement with the sector:
 - 4.1 individuals, families, whānau and communities exercise choices;
 - 4.2 Māori-Crown partnerships are at the heart of effective commissioning;
 - 4.3 the sector works together locally, regionally, and nationally;
 - 4.4 the sector is sustainable;
 - 4.5 decisions and actions are taken transparently;

- 4.6 the sector is always learning and improving;
- 5 **noted** that due to the important role of social services in the COVID-19 response and recovery and the significant interest from the social sector to progress improvements across social sector commissioning, this is an opportunity to provide an update and continue the progress of this work;
- 6 **agreed** to publish *Social Sector Commissioning: progress, principles and next steps* attached to the paper under SWC-20-SUB-0115;
- 7 **agreed** that work continues across government to give effect to the commissioning principles;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development will report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee in 2020 with a proposed plan for further engagement.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Poto Williams
Jan Logie, MP

Officials present from:

Prime Minister's Office
Officials Committee for SWC
Office of the SWC Chair