



Report

Date: 19 April 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Christchurch Mosques Attack Amendment to extend the Welfare Programme for a further 12 months

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report seeks your agreement to approve and sign the attached Christchurch Mosques Attack Amendment to extend the Welfare Programme for a further 12 months.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** that on 15 March 2021, Cabinet agreed to extend the Christchurch Mosques Attack Welfare Programme for 12 months [CAB-21-MIN-0060 refers]
- 2 **approve and sign** the attached Christchurch Mosques Attack Amendment 2021
 Yes / No
- 3 **note** that your office will arrange for a copy of the amendment to be tabled in the House of Representatives once you have signed it
- 4 **note** that officials will arrange for publication of the amendment on the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) external website and in the *New Zealand Gazette*.


Bede Hogan
Policy Manager
Income Support Policy

19-4-2021
Date


Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development and
Employment

2/5/21
Date

Background

- 1 Following the Christchurch mosques attack of 15 March 2019, a need was identified for a new welfare programme to ensure that those affected by the attack were able to access financial support, even where their residency status may otherwise have made them ineligible.
- 2 Following Cabinet agreement, the Christchurch Mosques Attack Welfare Programme (the Programme) came into force on 3 June 2019 for 12 months.
- 3 In February 2020, you agreed to extend the Programme for a further 12 months, ending on 4 June 2021. This was because people continued to rely on the Programme to access financial support, and the previous expiration date of the Programme coincided with the attacker's sentencing.

Cabinet has agreed to an extension of the Programme for a further 12 months

- 4 There are currently 13 recipients of the Programme, all of whom are on temporary visas. These people continue to rely on support from the Programme to access financial support.
- 5 For example, some recipients are still waiting on the outcomes of Special Direction Applications, which could result in special approval from the Minister of Immigration for a residence visa. When they move on to that visa, other financial assistance from MSD may become available. It is unlikely that recipients of the Programme will require support from the Programme beyond June 2022.
- 6 Cabinet agreed on 15 March 2021 to extend the programme for a further 12 months, from 5 June 2021 to 4 June 2022 [CAB-21-MIN-0060 refers], which is estimated to cost approximately \$57,000 in payments.
- 7 An amendment to the Programme is needed to give effect to the 12-month extension.

The instrument to amend the Programme is attached for your signature

- 8 The instrument to amend the Programme is attached for your approval and signature.
- 9 Following your approval and signature to the instrument, the Christchurch Mosques Attack Programme Amendment 2021 will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette* and on the MSD website by 6 May 2021 and will come into force on 4 June 2021. This timeframe provides sufficient time to ensure people are aware of the continuation in financial support well in advance of the current expiry date of the programme.

REP/21/4/374

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