



26 MAY 2021

Tēnā koe

On 31 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Reports, briefings, and other documents including, relating to, and leading from the cross-government briefing entitled "Government policies and actions to improve food security".*
2. *Communications relating to this briefing, and any work related to or leading from this briefing.*
3. *Reports, briefings, communications, and other documents related to the future of this cross-agency work, including the prioritisation and continuation of this work.*

On 7 April 2021, the Ministry emailed you to refine your request. You confirmed on 8 April 2021, that you were happy to refine your request to the following:

1. *Reports, briefings, and other documents that have been provided to the Minister for Social Development and Employment, relating to, and leading from the cross-government briefing entitled "Government policies and actions to improve food security".*
2. *Emails and meeting minutes relating to this briefing, and any work related to or leading from this briefing.*
3. *Reports, briefings, emails, meeting minutes, and other documents related to the future of this cross-agency work, including the prioritisation and continuation of this work.*

On 15 April 2021, you were advised that a part of your request specifically in relation to the meeting minutes was being transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. As such, the Ministry will not be responding to this aspect of your request.

On 3 May 2021, the Ministry emailed you to extend the timeframe for responding to your request. You were advised that a response would be sent to you on or before 27 May 2021.

For your information, the Ministry has a range of information relating to food secure communities on its website at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/index.html)

The Ministry will respond to your questions in turn:

1. *Reports, briefings, and other documents that have been provided to the Minister for Social Development and Employment, relating to, and leading from the cross-government briefing entitled "Government policies and actions to improve food security".*

The following documents were provided to the Minister for Social Development and Employment by the Ministry:

- Report, *Food Secure Communities: strategic approach and update*, dated 29 June 2020
- Aide-memoire, *Food Secure Communities: Strategic Approach and Update*, dated 29 June 2020

The release of both documents is refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act as the documents are publicly available. Please find a link to the respective documents below:

- [covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM15-Report-Food-Secure-Communities-strategic-approach-and-update-29-Jun-....pdf](https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM15-Report-Food-Secure-Communities-strategic-approach-and-update-29-Jun-....pdf)
- [covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM16-Aide-memoire-Food-Secure-Communities-Strategic-Approach-and-Update-....pdf](https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM16-Aide-memoire-Food-Secure-Communities-Strategic-Approach-and-Update-....pdf)

2. *Emails and meeting minutes relating to this briefing, and any work related to or leading from this briefing.*

Please find the following email chains attached to this response.

- Email, *RE: Update on food strategy*, dated 25 June 2020
- Email, *RE: Food Secure Communities – Report and Aide Memoire attached*, dated 29 June 2020
- Email, *RE: The final PDF of the food security briefing*, dated 22 July 2020
- Email, *RE: Government Policies and Actions to improve security – DPMC report*, dated 28 July 2020
- Email, *RE: MSD report on supports for people experiencing food insecurity*, dated 21 September 2020

Please note that the aide memoire and report mentioned in the email titled '*RE: Food Secure Communities – Report and Aide Memoire attached*' have been proactively released online and can be found in the links provided above.

3. *Reports, briefings, emails, meeting minutes, and other documents related to the future of this cross-agency work, including the prioritisation and continuation of this work.*

The Ministry has identified the following document as being in scope of this part of your request:

- *Social Development and Employment Update: Supporting Food Security in New Zealand page 12*, dated 18 December 2020

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

You will also note that the contact details of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act in order to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. This is because information released under the Act may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including the Ministry's own website.

Some information has also been deemed to be out of scope of your request and has not been included.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Kelvin Moffatt  
**General Manager, Service and Contracts Management**



Out of Scope

**From:** 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 June 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Update on food strategy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

**From:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 June 2020 2:25 pm  
**To:** 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Update on food strategy

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Thanks for the email. Yes please so talking points and background on the work, maybe how this aligns with the cross agency work on food security being led by DPMC and an update on the budget funding would be good ☺

SWC Wednesday 1 July 2020 Cabinet Committee meeting Room 8.5EW 9.30am-11.00am

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 June 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Update on food strategy



Hi 9(2)(a)

The team is busy working on the Aide Memoire and we just wanted to get some more direction for it.

Do you want talking points and some background information for the AM? We wanted to be sure we are on the right track.

As we are preparing the AM could we please have the date, time and venue of the swift, also expected attendees?

Thanks

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Senior Advisor – Office of the Deputy Chief Executive Māori, Communities and Partnerships  
Ministry of Social Development

56 The Terrace | P O Box 1556 | Wellington 6011 New Zealand

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 12:13 PM

To: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> Kelvin

Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Update on food strategy

Hi team,

The Minister is actually keen on taking an oral item to SWC next week on this work prior to receiving the actual paper.

In preparation for this I wonder if in line with the paper whether an AM for the Minister and potentially the A3 of the strategy is provided as part of the SWC pack to support the oral item?

I would expect the AM to have the same information as in the report and if possible to have by Friday or Monday morning latest?

I wonder if in prep also, whether it might be a good idea to include in officials on Monday? Can you please let me know if this will work?

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

| Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

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From: 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 9:25 AM  
To: 'Kelvin Moffatt' 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(k) 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz  
Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz  
Subject: RE: Update on food strategy

Mōrena Kelvin,

Of course! I can negotiate that and I'm sure that would be ok.  
Thanks for letting me know and I apologise again for the push on the timeframe.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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From: Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 9:21 AM  
To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; 9(2)(k) 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz  
Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz  
Subject: RE: Update on food strategy

Hi 9(2)(a)

Can you see if you can negotiate a date of the 26<sup>th</sup> for us. All the food team are knee deep in reviewing applications for interim funding (we have received 169 applications) and we have promised the sector we would be letting them know the outcome by the 22<sup>nd</sup>, including giving them feedback.  
Ideally I don't want to pull them off this key priority....

Kelvin

From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 3:24 PM  
To: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>  
Cc: 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>  
Subject: RE: Update on food strategy

Hi team,

The Minister has requested for this report to come over by 24 June – Sorry I know this is next week! The office have been given a heads up that SWC throughout July will have a full agenda and there is a risk that this won't make it into the agenda, if the Minister decides to take it to SWC.

Can you please let me know if this will work?

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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From: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz]  
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 3:50 PM  
To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
Cc: 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>  
Subject: Update on food strategy

Hi 9(2)(a)

Thanks for clarifying expectations around the report on our food security work. Now we are clear on the format (report to minister with appropriate recs) the team will work to a mid-July timeframe for finalising the report of approximately 16 July.

In regards to your question about what the DPMC work is and what triggered it... When would you like a response on this?

Thanks,

9(2)(a)



From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2020 4:59 PM

To: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Mark Henderson 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Serena Curtis-Lemuelu 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Follow up on MCP work - update food strategy, support for temp migrants and funding differences with OT

Kia ora team,

I just wanted to confirm that there is a paper underway – I know that I have had a few discussions with 9(2)(a) about what this might look like but not sure if this was landed.

Anyway just to confirm – the office have decided that a report to the Minister updating her on the food strategy work would be suffice with a rec in there to ask if she would like to go to SWC with a report/cabinet paper or if she would like this report to be forwarded onto Ministers.

Can I ask when I can expect this to come over?

Also any information about what the DPMC work is and what triggered that?

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 4:40 PM

To: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Mark Henderson 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Serena Curtis-Lemuelu 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Follow up on MCP work - update food strategy, support for temp migrants and funding differences with OT

Hi team,

Thank you for providing the update.

The office have asked for a cabinet paper on the food security work and if possible aiming for early to mid-July. It would be great to have a paper that highlighted work we are doing and looked at where we may want to head in terms of developing a strategy. As has been noted- this is new territory for Government- and important there is oversight and feed in across Ministers and their portfolios

Can you please provide more information on what the DPMC work is and what triggered that?

9(2)(k)

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

| Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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From: 9(2)(k)

@msd.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 2:07 PM

To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Mark Henderson 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin

Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Serena Curtis-Lemuelu 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Follow up on MCP work - update food strategy, support for temp migrants and funding differences with OT

H 9(2)(a)

Here is where we landed with these queries:

1. The office are expecting a food strategy cabinet paper and were under the impression this would come through soon?

We note this may be a reference to the report back noted in the MPI cabinet paper on the oversupply of pork. We had asked the rec 12 be rewritten for MSD to report back to the Minister but the final paper submitted appears to have left the original rec as is.

We are able to provide a report back on our food security work programme if there is preference for this. Our recommendation would be to time this for mid-late July in order to outline progress with implementing funding and to align with the timing of a cross-government discussion around food security we understand DPMC is leading.

Out of Scope

Thanks,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 3:10 PM

To: 9(2)(k) ts@msd.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: Follow up on MCP work - update food strategy, support for temp migrants and funding differences with OT

Kia ora team,

I have been asked for follow up on a few things please, are you able to provide a short response/update to each OR let me know if it would be easier to have a zoom chat with the advisors about it?

- The office are expecting a food strategy cabinet paper and were under the impression this would come through soon?
- An update on the discrepancies in Budget 20 funding between OT and MSD
- Advice on what NGOs can best support temporary migrants, and whether underutilised NGOs might be able to fill this gap in support

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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9(2)(a)

# Out of Scope

From: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 29 June 2020 11:40 AM

To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Cc: 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Marama Edwards

@msd.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; 9(2)(k)

9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Food secure Communities - Report and Aide Memoire attached

Hi 9(2)(a)

Please find attached the updated Aide Memoire, Report on Food Secure Communities Strategic Approach and the diagram both the original and the updated one.

Apologies for the delay in getting this across this morning but please come back to me if I can offer assistance with this.

Thanks

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Senior Advisor – Office of the Deputy Chief Executive Māori, Communities and Partnerships  
Ministry of Social Development

56 The Terrace | P O Box 1556 | Wellington 6011 New Zealand

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 26 June 2020 1:51 pm

To: Kelvin Moffatt

Cc: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(k) Marama Edwards ; 9(2)(a) 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: Food secure Communities - Report and Aide Memoire attached

Thanks Kelvin. This is fine!

I've actually seen all the information from the questions in the report, so I'm hoping this isn't too much work SORRY!

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz

**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 1:38 PM

**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

**Cc:** 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(k)

9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz; Marama Edwards 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz

**Subject:** Re: Food secure Communities - Report and Aide Memoire attached

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Is Monday mid morning okay for this?

Kelvin

Sent from my iPhone

On 26/06/2020, at 1:33 PM, 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz wrote:

Kia ora team,

Thank you so much for sending this through ☺ Appreciate the help to get this together on the limited info that I provided.

Sorry just some questions and feedback on the AM please:

- Can we split this into speaking notes from the background?
- Can we include examples of how this has worked so far and the benefits of coordination- for example the pork paper which is also mentioned in the report.
- Could we include how this is also needed simultaneously alongside changes to improve income support (is this available)



- Explain who Kore Hiakai and other groups mentioned are
- What do the following bullet points actually mean? Can we add something more tangible
  - o MSD has put aside \$1 million in funding over two years for communities to work together to create long-term, sustainable food security in their communities.
  - o This will mean that people and families vulnerable to food insecurity have a more positive experience in accessing food; and that communities are better positioned to manage future shocks to food security when MSD's funding comes to an end.
- can we also get a table or something about how the \$32 million is broken down please? It's all explained in the report so

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 10:21 AM

**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(k)

9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Marama Edwards

9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz> 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>;

9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Food secure Communities - Report and Aide Memoire attached

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Please find attached the Food Secure Report and Aide Memoire to support the Minister at SWC.

Let me know if you need anything else from the team.

Thanks

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

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9(2)(a)

**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 July 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz  
**Cc:** Vivienne Jenner; i\_request (MSD); Kelvin Moffatt  
**Subject:** RE: The final PDF of the food security briefing

H 9(2)(a)

Work on improving coordination of government actions to strengthen food security is being led by DPMC who took a lead role in preparing the joint agency briefing on this issue. DPMC have a strong interest in the issue as there is a legislative requirement to report annually on child food insecurity (the percentage of children (ages 0-15) living in households reporting food runs out often or sometimes).

MSD contributed to the joint briefing which provides a summary of initiatives underway across agencies, that support food security. It also summarises MSD's main actions that contribute to supporting people who are at risk of food insecurity.

Agencies contributing to the briefing agreed there is a need to better coordinate food security policies, programmes, monitoring and engagement activities across government.

MSD has yet to fully identify areas where such coordination is relevant. One obvious area for coordination is the MoE free school lunch programme and the MSD funding of food banks and food networks. Coordination of monitoring of food insecurity is also another obvious area.

In respect of Social Development portfolio responsibilities including the impact of Covid-19 on unemployment, benefit take up and hardship assistance demand, MSD is examining its role in contributing to strengthening food security.

MSD believes that its key role is to contribute to food security via the income support system and assisting people to find paid employment. Supplementary targeted hardship support is available for those who experience food insecurity.

In response to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, MSD is also one-off funding additional foodbank demand, supporting better sector practise, infrastructure to support greater use of food rescue, and working with communities on a plan to increase local food security. This response is strongly focused on helping meet food security needs driven by the pandemic.

When the work on examining our role is completed, we plan to report to the Minister about MSD support for food security.

MSD's work to strengthen food security will support and align with other agencies initiatives as set out in the joint agency briefing.

9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst Social Development, Child & Youth  
Ministry of Social Development

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**From:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 July 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** MCP\_DCE\_Office\_Requests (MSD) 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; i\_request (MSD) 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz; Marama Edwards 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz  
**Subject:** RE: The final PDF of the food security briefing



Kia ora,

The office has asked for some additional information about this one please. Also there seems to be a lot of cross over of work that MSD seem to already have in train, the office are concerned on the consultation that happened to identify the work underway especially in the MSD space?

The office have asked if MSD can please come back in an email to me is fine:

***Info specifically outlining how the work underway through the MSD food security initiative aligns with the issues identified in this briefing?***

If possible and I am sorry about the stretch with this – could this come back **Thursday 23 July 2020 10.30am please?**  
**Please call me if this isn't possible, this additional information is to support the briefing to the Minister in her weekend bag.**

Thanks

9(2)(a)

**From:** 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2020 4:10 PM

**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Michelle Bly 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; i\_request (MSD) 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Marama Edwards

9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; MCP\_DCE\_Office\_Requests (MSD)

9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Kelvin Moffatt 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

**Subject:** The final PDF of the food security briefing

Hi 9(2)(a)

As discussed with you earlier please find attached the final signed PDF of the Joint Briefing, on Government Policies and Actions to Improve Food Security.

This briefing paper is recommended as a Noting Paper and we understand it is being sent to the PM's office this afternoon but is not expected to be seen until next Wednesday.

If there are any questions on the paper please let me know.

Thanks

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Senior Advisor – Office of the Deputy Chief Executive Māori, Communities and Partnerships  
Ministry of Social Development

✉ 56 The Terrace | P O Box 1556 | Wellington 6011 New Zealand

☎ Mob: 9(2)(a)

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Out of Scope

**From:** 9(2)(k) (MSD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 July 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Kelvin Moffatt; 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Government Policies and Actions to improve security - DPMC report

H 9(2)(a)

Attached please find the signed report by Minister Sepuloni titled Government policies and actions to improve food security. You may wish to share this signed copy with the policy team that were involved with this report also.

Thanks

9(2)(a)

Senior Advisor – Office of the Deputy Chief Executive Māori, Communities and Partnerships  
Ministry of Social Development

56 The Terrace | P O Box 1556 | Wellington 6011 New Zealand

Mob: 9(2)(a)

**From:** 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 July 2020 11:29 am

**To:** MCP\_DCE\_Office\_Requests (MSD)

**Subject:** Government Policies and Actions to improve security - DPMC report

Kia ora,

Please find attached report signed by Minister Sepuloni.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

| Private Secretary (Social Development)

9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister for ACC  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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<<

DPMC-2020.21-0002 Government policies and actions to improve food security - signed Minister  
Sepuloni.pdf (1.2MB)

(1.2MB)

>>

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(a)

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**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 September 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz'  
**Cc:** Molly Elliott; Vivienne Jenner; 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re MSD report on supports for people experiencing food insecurity

Hi 9(2)(a)

MSD will provide the Minister with a report on how the Ministry of Social Development is providing support for people experiencing food insecurity, by early next week.

MSD provides a range of support services that also support peoples food security. As COVID related temporary government supports cease, such as temporary wage subsidies, MSD's support services will be available to support the food security of people adversely impacted by withdrawal of the temporary supports.

Initiatives led by other government agencies, such as initiatives to lift the real incomes of low paid workers and improving their access to affordable housing, are also important in providing support for people's food security.

While MSD has a key role in supporting people's food security, the report identifies that an all of government approach should be developed to provide support for people who experience food insecurity during the COVID response and recovery.

9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst Social Development, Child & Youth  
Ministry of Social Development



## Withheld

### Supporting Food Security in New Zealand

*Leads: Vivienne Jenner and Molly Elliott*

MSD are collaborating with the DPMC-led Cross-Agency Food Security Group to strengthen the coordination of government agency policies and actions to improve food security. This group aims to provide an all of government view that will assist with budget and investment planning, data measurement and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and the possible development of a food security plan across government agencies. The Group is planning to write a joint briefing to responsible ministers in the first quarter of 2021.

We are also working with multiple government departments to address the existing limitations in the work on food security. Key limitations include:

- lack of a robust evidence base,
- lack of a holistic approach in the diverse work programmes and objectives, and
- the prevalence of ad-hoc measures that largely address immediate needs rather than the underlying causes of food insecurity.

There are many factors that can lead a household to be food insecure, including (but not limited to) low income, unemployment, or financial hardship. Starting in April 2020, COVID-19 impacts have significantly increased foodbank usage. Data from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) does not indicate any significant increases in material hardship between the June and September quarter of 2020 on average across New Zealand. New Zealand is still at an early stage of COVID-19 recovery and it may be too soon to understand the drivers of increased food bank usage, increased food uptake. Current available data does not yet reflect the tapering off of various financial supports, such as the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment. This may create a lagged impact on unemployment levels that are not expected to peak until 2022 and that is likely to have ongoing impacts on income and food security.

To mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, the Government has so far invested \$95.5 million of Special Needs Grants, \$57 million to support Civil Defence Emergency Management, as well as \$32 million to support increased community demand over two years.

Despite these measures, there may remain vulnerable populations such as refugees, new migrants, low-income households, and people who experienced unemployment or hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic who may continue to experience food insecurity. We will continue to work with relevant agencies to address these gaps and to identify opportunities for strengthening the coordination of policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in relation to food security. We will continue to update you on this work.