



# Cabinet Social Policy Committee

SOC Min (10) 5/5

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## Minute of Decision

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### Allocating Secondary School Operational Funding Using Quarterly Roll Counts

#### Portfolio: Education

On 24 March 2010, the Cabinet Social Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that Budget 2009 and the Prime Minister's Summit on Employment established the "Ensuring Young People have Access to Training" and "Tertiary Education" tagged contingencies to support the Youth Guarantee;
- 2 **noted** that:
  - 2.1 the way schools are resourced is an important part of fully realising the vision of the Youth Guarantee;
  - 2.2 a staged process for changes to the school resourcing system is proposed to create the right incentives and increase flexibility for schools to enable them to meet the needs of all their students;
- 3 **agreed** that from 2011, operational funding for Years 9 – 13 in composite and secondary schools will be allocated using quarterly roll counts to create an incentive for schools to keep students engaged in education;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Education will include the estimated reduction in expenditure on school operational funding resulting from quarterly roll counts in the Budget 2010 package for Vote Education;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Education will seek an increase to school operational funding of 4 per cent in Budget 2010;
- 6 **noted** that implementing quarterly roll counts will result in a one-off cost (departmental capital) in Vote Education of \$1.4 million in 2010/11 only, and that this will be funded from the Budget 2010 Baseline Alignment Proposal for Vote Education;
- 7 **noted** that there is a risk of a negative reaction to the introduction of quarterly roll counts, as this may be construed as a way of cutting funding to schools;

- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Education intends to announce the introduction of quarterly roll counts as part of Budget 2010 announcements to mitigate the risk of a negative reaction by positioning this change as part of wider changes needed to realise the Youth Guarantee, and in the context of a 4 per cent increase to school operational funding.