

The Treasury

Budget 2015 Information Release

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- [1] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(c) - to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [3] 6(e)(iv) - to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.
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- [6a] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- [7] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [8] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [8a] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the collective and individual ministerial responsibility
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- [10] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [12] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [13] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [14] Not in scope

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [4] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

From: Nick Carroll [TSY]
To: [^MOF: Simon Carey](#); [^Parliament: Simon Duncan](#)
Cc: [Fiona Carter-Giddings \[TSY\]](#); [Ruth Isaac \[TSY\]](#); [9] [Tony Burton \[TSY\]](#); [Jane Frances \[TSY\]](#)
Subject: DPMC paper on "Work programme to address children living in material hardship"
Date: Monday, 10 November 2014 10:09:00 a.m.
Attachments: [Work Programme Report.pdf](#)

[SEEMAIL][SENSITIVE]

Simon & Simon,

Please find attached the DPMC paper on: "Work programme to address children living in material hardship", for the phone conversation between the PM and the Minister of Finance tomorrow and some Treasury comments on the paper.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Nick

Treasury comments on paper: "Work programme to address children living in material hardship"

Treasury has been involved in the development of the paper and we are comfortable with the advice. The specific issues we would draw your attention to are:

- a) Budget 15 is likely to involve some tough fiscal choices (managing cost pressures and savings priorities) and that the size of the package to address children living in material hardship will have implications for choices elsewhere.
- b) Targeted options within Working for Families (e.g. to families with young children) may be possible within the fiscal envelope being considered, but increases to a broader group will involve either significant fiscal implications or distributional consequences (losers)
- c) Broad based increases in Accommodation Supplement by putting upward pressure on general rents may erode some gains associated with the support (as well as being more costly). In the next phase of work, options for the Accommodation Supplement/ Temporary Additional Support (TAS) more narrowly targeted support to those families most in need should be considered.
- d) We think that it will be a challenge to target the early childhood education/ childcare options to those families most in need (and support the overall agenda to lift ECE participation). Options on ECE/ childcare will need to demonstrate that criteria used to provide support identify the target families of this package.
- e) This paper has a focus on short-term options of additional financial support to families living in material hardship. Longer-term options to support higher employment of benefit-reliant families are being considered through the investment approach (including the BPS welfare target, and financial flexibility to achieve that target). Options to provide additional employment support for benefit reliant families (e.g. wage subsidies, jobseeker incentives, case management) should be consistent with the investment approach, but the focus of the overarching narrative on sustainably addressing child poverty should include a strong focus on employment.
- f) The more targeted options considered in the note (e.g. debt) should be part of the package of options being considered.

