

# The Treasury

## Budget 2015 Information Release

### Release Document July 2015

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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
- [9] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [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.



## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Children's Action Plan: Progress Report (Paper One)

#### Portfolio: Social Development

On 23 March 2015, following reference from the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC), Cabinet:

#### Background

- 1 **noted** that in Budget 2014, Ministers approved \$16.350 million for the Children's Action Plan (CAP) operating model, which included a transfer of \$1.500 million of unspent funding from 2013/14 [CAB Min (14) 13/8 (30)];
- 2 **noted** that no funding has been agreed beyond 2014/15;
- 3 **noted** that funding decisions and appropriation arrangements for the future of the CAP will be finalised as part of the Budget 2015 process;

#### Children's Teams

- 4 **noted** that Children's Teams in Rotorua and Whangarei became operational in 2013;
- 5 **noted** that in 2014, Cabinet and the Cabinet Business Committee approved the establishment of eight new Children's Teams in:
  - 5.1 Horowhenua/Otaki;
  - 5.2 Marlborough;
  - 5.3 Whanganui;
  - 5.4 Tairāwhiti (Gisborne);
  - 5.5 Eastern Bay of Plenty (Whakatane);
  - 5.6 Hamilton;
  - 5.7 Clendon/Manurewa/Papakura;
  - 5.8 Christchurch;

[CBC Min (14) 1/5, CAB Min (14) 15/16]

- 6 **noted** that the new sites in Horowhenua/Otaki and Marlborough are now fully operational and that the other six approved communities are engaging in discussions and arrangements for establishing their new teams;

### Scope and trajectory

- 7 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development (the Minister) is proposing to continue establishing the six approved Children's Teams so that they are all accepting referrals by December 2015;
- 8 **noted** that Hamilton has already appointed its Children's Team Director and that the appointments are pending in Tairāwhiti (Gisborne) and Christchurch;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister intends to use the Hamilton Children's Team to test how an Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA), Vulnerable Kids Information System (ViKI), and The Hub can support the effective operation of a large Children's Team;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister intends to establish two further Children's Teams in new sites from 2016/17, bringing them to a total of 20 - one for each District Health Board (DHB) region by 2021;
- 11 **agreed in principle, subject to** Budget decisions, to establish the remaining six approved Children's Teams as set out in paragraphs 5.3 to 5.8 above by December 2015;
- 12 [[8]
- 13 [[8]
- 14 **noted** the additional information tabled by the Minister at Cabinet on the progress and outcomes of the 130 referrals to the Rotorua Children's Team, and the 146 referrals to the Whangarei Children's Team;

### Workforce

- 15 **agreed in principle, subject to** Budget 2015 decisions, that the CAP Directorate continue to manage, monitor and report on the implementation of Parts 2 and 3 of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014, on behalf of the Social Sector Board/Vulnerable Children's Board, including implementing safety checking and child protection policies;
- 16 **agreed in principle, subject to** Budget 2015 decisions, that the CAP Directorate continue to manage, monitor and report on children's workers' capability development as agreed by Cabinet [CAB Min (12) 34/9], through the implementation of:
- 16.1 a shared core competency framework;
- 16.2 a code of practice to guide children's workers;

## Vulnerable Kids Information System

- 17 **noted** that the Minister intends to support the Children's Teams with new information and other tools as agreed by Cabinet in 2012 [CAB Min (12) 34/9], and to trial these in Hamilton as follows: AISA, ViKI, and The Hub;
- 18 **agreed** in principle that ViKI is essential to the successful rollout and scaling of Children's Teams, as well as monitoring the results;
- 19 **noted** that ViKI will be piloted in Hamilton and then implemented in stages to reduce the risk, and that this is consistent with advice from the Chief Information Officers from Health, Education, Police and Social Development and the Government Chief Information Officer;
- 20 [11]
- 21 21.1 **directed** officials to develop a process for the robust evaluation of the effectiveness of Children's Teams, to enable progress and outcomes for children to be reported back to Ministers as required;
- 21.2 **invited** the Minister for Social Development to report to SOC by 23 September 2015 on the design of the proposed evaluation;

## Public awareness campaign

- 22 **noted** that funding for a public awareness campaign was allocated in Budget 2014, but that this has been deferred until sufficient Children's Teams are in place to cater for potential referrals;
- 23 **agreed** to reconsider the need for, and appropriateness of, a public awareness campaign in 2017 when ten Children's Teams will be operational, and that funding for the campaign will be sought at that time;

## Funding mechanism

- 24 **noted** that in March 2014, SOC requested a report on:
- 24.1 any changes to the CAP funding pool in 2014/15;
- 24.2 work on new arrangements to be implemented from Budget 2015 that provide the Vulnerable Children's Board with greater control over the allocation of funds appropriated for the CAP;
- 24.3 a comprehensive bid for remaining implementation costs for the Vulnerable Children package, including the Children's Action Plan and the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 [CBC Min (14) 1/5];
- 25 **noted** that there were no changes to the CAP funding pool in 2014/15 and that officials consider that the current funding arrangements provide the Vulnerable Children's Board/Social Sector Board with sufficient control over the allocation of funds appropriated for the CAP;

- 26 **noted** that as part of the Budget 2015 process, the Minister will be proposing to transfer the CAP underspend from 2014/15 to offset the CAP bid;
- 27 **noted** that on 16 December 2014, the Vulnerable Children's Board/Social Sector Board agreed that a centrally determined funding model was their preferred funding mechanism for the CAP;
- 28 **noted** that this can be new money or redistributed from agencies' baselines, or a combination of both, and that partner agencies still need to fund their own work programmes from their own Votes;
- 29 **agreed** that from Budget 2015 onwards, the CAP work programme be funded through a centrally determined funding mechanism;
- 30 **agreed in principle** that in addition to any new funding decided by Ministers, partner agencies will continue to support the implementation of the CAP by contributing resources, both financial and in kind, as subject to the Budget 2015 process.

Secretary of the Cabinet

References: SOC Min (15) 5/2, CAB Min (15) 9/4  
Additional information tabled at Cabinet by the Minister for Social Development

*Secretary's note: This minute replaces SOC Min (15) 5/2. Cabinet amended paragraph 21.*

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