

Reference: 20160281

23 August 2016



Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 26 July 2016. You requested:

“Copies of all aide memoires, briefings, advice, reports sent to the Minister of Finance’s office and/or Associate Ministers offices and/or Minister for Social Development’s office and/or Associate Ministers offices mentioning the Children’s Action Plan since February 2016

Where information is withheld, I request you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19(a)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act.”

Information Being Released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

| Item | Date | Document Description | Decision |
|-------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | 20 May 2016 | Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee – Wednesday, 25 May 2016 | Release in part |
| 2. | 15 June 2016 | Report of the Investment Panel February 2016 | Release relevant part |

I have decided to release the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people, and
- names and contact details of junior officials and certain sensitive advice, under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

Information Publicly Available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website:

| Item | Date | Document Description | Website Address |
|------|-----------|---|---|
| 3. | July 2016 | Budget 2016 Information Release <i>Treasury Report: Vote Social Development Budget Initiatives 2016/17</i> | http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b16-info/b16-3397642.pdf |

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the document listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

Information to be Withheld

There is one additional document covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under the following section of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

| Item | Date | Document Description | Proposed Action |
|------|------------------|---|---|
| 4. | 15 February 2016 | Aide Memoire – A data package for Budget 2016 | Withhold in full under active consideration |

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This fully covers the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Kristie Carter
Acting Team Leader, Labour Market & Welfare

OIA Information for Release 20160281

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | <u>Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday, 25 May 2016</u> | 1 |
| 2. | <u>Report of the Investment Panel February 2016</u> | 5 |

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Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee
Wednesday, 25 May 2016

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| Date: | 20 May 2016 | Report No: | T2016/866 |
| | | File Number: | MS-5-2-SOC |

Action Sought

| | Action Sought | Deadline |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English) | Read prior to SOC meeting | 9.30am, Wednesday, 25 May 2016 |
| Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce) | Read prior to SOC meeting | 9.30am, Wednesday, 25 May 2016 |
| Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Paula Bennett) | Read prior to SOC meeting | 9.30am, Wednesday, 25 May 2016 |

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

| Name | Position | Telephone | 1st Contact |
|----------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| s9(2)(g)(i) | | (N/A) | ✓ |
| Hayden Fenwick | Acting Manager, Labour Market and Welfare | 04 917 6969 (wk) | 021 704 771 (mob) |

Actions for the Minister's Office Staff (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: No

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**Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee
Wednesday, 25 May 2016**

Executive Summary

We are currently aware of three items on the Cabinet Social Policy Committee agenda for Wednesday 25 May 2016. The table below identifies any relevant fiscal impacts and / or provides Treasury's comments / recommendations on one of these. The remaining two papers which we are aware of, for which Treasury has no briefing or comment, are listed below the table for completeness.

| Title | Pg | Recommend | Fiscal Implications (\$m GST excl.) | | | | | Treasury Comment |
|--|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| | | | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | Out years | |
| Oral item: Children's Teams Evaluation | 4 | There are no recommendations associated with this item | <i>Operating</i> | | | | | Treasury considers that it is critical to focus on ensuring work is underway to build the evidence base for the Children's Teams model and deliver a meaningful report back in December on the evaluations of the Children's Teams. Treasury is working with the Children's Action Plan directorate to help undertake evaluative activity. |
| | | | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | | <i>Capital</i> | | | | | |
| | | | - | - | - | - | | |

- Out of scope of request

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Recommended Action

We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Cabinet Social Policy Committee meeting at 9.30am on Wednesday, 25 May 2016.

Hayden Fenwick
Acting Manager, Labour Market and Welfare

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

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Oral item: Children's Teams Evaluation

Responsible Person: Hayden Fenwick, Acting Manager, Labour Market and Welfare, 917 6969

First Contact Person: Kosal Kong, Senior Analyst, Labour Market and Welfare, 917 6308

Purpose

1. In December 2015 Cabinet considered a proposed evaluation plan for the Children's Teams. As a result, Cabinet directed officials to report back to the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC) by April 2016 to report results achieved to date for children participating in the Children's Teams, and to SOC by December 2016 on results from the evaluations of the Children's Teams undertaken to date.
2. Minister Tolley is taking an oral item to SOC to fulfil the requirements of the report back on results. Treasury understands Minister Tolley intends to speak to a hand out which will be circulated at the meeting. There are no recommendations arising from this item.

Comment

3. Treasury supports robust evaluation of the Children's Teams and considers building the evidence base for the effectiveness of the Children's Teams approach is critical for informing decisions around further funding or expanding the Children's Team model.
4. The quality of analysis presented to date does not give us confidence that the Children's Action Plan directorate (CAP) will be on track to deliver a sufficiently meaningful and robust December evaluation report back without a significant lift in focus. Given the focus on evidence based service provision as part of the future operating model for vulnerable children, Treasury considers CAP should be taking the opportunity to build a robust evidence base for the Children's Teams model.
5. It is critical that CAP focuses on what work is required to be underway in order to deliver a meaningful December report back. Treasury has offered help from the Analysis and Insights team both to help to use the IDI and undertake better analysis of currently held data sets to inform the December report back. CAP has accepted the offer and Treasury and CAP are currently working together to load Children's Teams data into the IDI. In addition, we consider that CAP should provide the Vulnerable Children's Board a clear and detailed plan for delivering on the December report.
6. You may wish to ask how CAP plans to be able to answer the following types of questions in December:
 - How well targeted are Children's Teams (to what extent does the risk profile of children that the team work with match what was expected)?
 - How effective are the services to which Children's Teams connect children and their families?
 - Are Children's Teams having any impact on CYF workloads? If we can't tell yet, when will we be able to?
 - Do we have a benchmark for what "good" looks like?
 - How is CAP planning to improve on the return on investment/CBAX information?
 - How is CAP using data and evidence to improve service delivery?

Only pages 60-61 relevant to request

Ministry of Social Development (MSD)/Children’s Action Plan (CAP) Directorate

| Initiative Name | Strategic Alignment (0 to 5) | National Welfare (0 to 10) | Implementation Risk | Service Delivery Risk | Confidence in information |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vulnerable Kids Information System (ViKI) | 3.5 | Unclear | low | low | low |
| Higher Living Standards | Economic Growth | Sustainability | Equity | Social Cohesion | Managing Risk |
| | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0.5 |

Description

The Children’s Action Plan is seeking funding in 2016/17 to continue testing of ViKI to support three Children’s Teams, and agreement to provision out-year funding in contingency. The capital component is for costs associated with the ViKI ICT system that provides information to support the work of the Children’s Teams. A business case will be provided mid-year to Cabinet.

Sub-Panel Funding Recommendation: Partial Support for \$0 million of capital and \$1.7 million of operating funding; the results of the evaluation of technology capability should be reviewed before further funding is approved.

Observations

- The Sub-Panel recommended funding continuation of existing pilots for one year in three sites while an evaluation of the technology viability, based on the pilots, is completed.
- The Sub-Panel recommended an additional evaluation on the efficacy of ViKI for the three children’s teams where it is being piloted before further funding ViKI.
- Evaluations of the pilot will also enable refinement of the scope and a better understanding of the potential benefits. The current national welfare score (cost to benefit ratio) is difficult to determine without further clarification, though it is likely to be on the low side when further refined.
- The risk of doing the pilot is low, but a national rollout at this time without further evaluation would be high risk.
- Given ViKI has been de-scoped (compared to its original vision), there is the potential that a commercial-off-the-shelf solution could be viable, rather than the customised system that has been proposed. More work should be done to explore the costs and benefits of this alternative.
- The Sub-Panel also wanted clarification before capital investment over who will have ownership of the asset created. The perception is that governance and accountability over the CAP Directorate is diffuse; despite MSD having ultimate responsibility for the financial management of the CAP Directorate, it is not clear who would have asset management over the ViKI system. The upcoming results of the Child, Youth and Family review will help better inform what the future governance of the CAP Directorate should be.
- There are many links between the children’s groups and other social sector work, and that sector is in a state of flux this year. For that reason it would also be prudent to wait until a number of other related “moving parts” in the social sector are clarified further before investing more in scaling up ViKI.
- ViKI could be linked in more with the Social Sector Investment Change Programme (SSICP).

Ministry of Social Development/Children’s Action Plan Directorate continued

| Initiative Name | Strategic Alignment (0 to 5) | National Welfare (0 to 10) | Implementation Risk | Service Delivery Risk | Confidence in information |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vulnerable Children’s Hub “The Hub” | 0.5 | 2 | low | low | low |
| Higher Living Standards | Economic Growth | Sustainability | Equity | Social Cohesion | Managing Risk |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Description

The Vulnerable Children’s Hub would be a first point of contact and triage for anyone concerned about vulnerable children. The Children’s Action Plan Directorate are seeking interim funding for the Hub for 2016/17 (for three Children’s Team sites – Hamilton, Canterbury and Counties Manukau).

Sub-Panel Funding Recommendation: Decline; following confirmation of the Child Youth and Family Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) evaluation, the Hub investment may no longer be required. If it is still required, the Ministry could return in Budget 2017 with a clearer value proposition.

Observations

- The Hub as described is essentially establishment of a call centre to triage calls for the Children’s Teams or Children, Youth and Family (CYF).
- The need for the Hub will be much clearer after the EAP evaluation is conducted in February, because restructures might mean these calls are dealt with differently, for example via the CYF call centre. For that reason, the Sub-Panel recommended waiting until the results of the EAP evaluation are completed before proceeding with this investment.
- If the Hub is prioritised as a strategic investment following the EAP evaluation, the benefits will need to be further defined before future consideration.

