

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [4] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [5] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [6] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [7] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [9] 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
- [10] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice.

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, an [8] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(h).

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



Cabinet

CAB Min (11) 16/18

Copy No: 15

Minute of Decision

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.

Green Paper on Children

Portfolio: Social Development and Employment

On 18 April 2011, following reference from the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted that:**
 - 1.1 while New Zealand has a strong foundation of services and supports for children and families, there is more that can be done to achieve better lives and better outcomes for New Zealand children;
 - 1.2 the development of a Children's Action Plan will provide opportunities to do this;
- 2 **noted** that a Children's Action Plan will provide an important child-focused underpinning to other initiatives across government (including addressing the drivers of crime, and reforming welfare) and could focus on prevention, systems, practice and legislation;
- 3 **noted** that in March 2011, SOC agreed in principle that \$0.8 million in the 2011/12 financial year and \$0.8 million in the 2012/13 financial year from savings options be used to develop and implement a Children's Action Plan [SOC Min (11) 5/5];
- 4 **agreed** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment develop and implement a Children's Action Plan as a means of providing a child-focused foundation for the government's current cross-sector priorities;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment envisages adapting a consultation process that has been successfully used in the United Kingdom whereby:
 - 5.1 the development of a Green Paper is led by a public policy expert, with advice and peer review by a group of independent academic and scientific experts, and with input and advice from a group of people with a frontline perspective;
 - 5.2 following public consultation on the Green Paper, a White Paper outlining the Children's Action Plan is prepared that includes the policy, practice, service delivery and legislative changes required, and timeframes for action;

- 6 **invited** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to report to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee seeking agreement to:
 - 6.1 terms of reference for the development of the Green Paper;
 - 6.2 the appointment of a public policy specialist to lead the development of the Green Paper;
 - 6.3 the appointment of an independent academic and scientific reference group, in consultation with the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor;
 - 6.4 the establishment of a multidisciplinary team, in consultation with relevant Ministers, to contribute to the Green Paper;
 - 6.5 the membership of the frontline forum;
- 7 **noted** that the multidisciplinary team will comprise a mix of public servants and others as required;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to work with the Minister of Justice and other relevant Ministers and report to SOC by August 2011 seeking agreement to release the Green Paper.

Reference: CAB (11) 215; SOC Min (11) 7/1

Secretary's note: This minute replaces SOC Min (11) 7/1. Cabinet amended paragraphs 6 and 8.
