

The Treasury

Budget 2020 Information Release

June 2020

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Key to sections of the Act under which information may have been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [11] 6(e)(vi) - to prevent serious damage to 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
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- [29] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials

- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] not in scope
- [41] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [42] 18(d) - information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Report

Date: 12 May 2020

To: Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance

From: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development

Financial Recommendations

Purpose

This report seeks your agreement to the financial recommendations of two additional Vote Social Development initiatives to be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) and included in the CRRF Foundational Package, as per the 11 May 2020 Cabinet paper titled *COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Foundational Package*.

Summary

On 11 May 2020 Cabinet agreed to a package of initiatives to be charged against the CRRF, however some financial recommendations were still outstanding.

At this meeting, Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and relevant Appropriation Ministers to approve jointly any changes to appropriations and capital injections, and the establishment of new appropriations where necessary to give effect to a list of initiatives for which financial recommendations were still outstanding.

There are two initiatives in Vote Social Development that have outstanding financial initiatives yet to be approved:

- Staffing for MSD to Respond to Demand
- Employment services response to COVID-19.

This report includes financial recommendations to include these initiatives in the CRRF Foundational package, details of which will be communicated on Budget Day (14 May).

In addition to the above outstanding financial recommendations required for two initiatives, Oranga Tamariki and MSD have worked together to reach revised implementation dates regarding two cross-agency initiatives, where they affect payments administered by MSD. These initiatives are:

- Emergency Financial Assistance for Caregivers in Response to COVID-19: Base Rate Increase
- Emergency Financial Assistance for Caregivers in the Response to COVID-19: Supporting Stability and Care.

The need to revise these implementation dates has centred around MSD's current and future operational capacity, especially given both the increased demand for MSD assistance and the work to develop and implement specific assistance tailored to those affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Recommended actions

We recommend that you:

- **Note** that on 11 May Cabinet:
 - approved a package of initiatives to be charged against the CRRF, however, some financial recommendations were still outstanding
 - authorised the Minister of Finance and relevant Appropriation Ministers to approve jointly any changes to appropriations and capital injections, and the establishment of new appropriations where necessary to give effect to a list of initiatives for which financial recommendations were still outstanding.
- **Note** that the following initiatives did not have financial recommendations in the 11 May Cabinet paper
 - Employment and Financial Support Response to COVID-19
 - Employment Services Response to COVID-19.
- **Note** that MSD and Oranga Tamariki will have worked together to reach the revised implementation dates of the following two initiatives:
 - Emergency Financial Assistance for Caregivers in Response to COVID-19: Base Rate Increase
 - Emergency Financial Assistance for Caregivers in the Response to COVID-19: Supporting Stability and Care
- **Approve** the financial recommendations for Vote Social Development, as detailed in the attached initiative documents.
- **Agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2020/21 be included in the 2020/21 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase(s) be met from Imprest Supply.
- **Agree** that the expenses incurred will be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund established as part of Budget 2020.
- **Note** that Cabinet agreed that any and all underspends related to the initiatives in the foundational CRRF package are returned to the Centre.
- **Note** that all communications relating to the CRRF and any requests for early announcement will need to have both the written approval of the Minister of Finance and sign-off from the Prime Minister's Office.

12 May 2020

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development

Date

Minister for Finance

13 / 05 /20
Date