

# The Treasury

## Advice on COVID-19 Response - Tranche Two Information Release

September 2022

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Reference: T2021/2721 SH-3-5

Date: 17 November 2021

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Grant Robertson) Minister for Social Development and Employment (Hon Carmel Sepuloni) Minister of Revenue (Hon David Parker) Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety (Hon Michael Wood)

Deadline: 7pm, Thursday 18 November 2021

## **Aide Memoire: Individual COVID-19 support work programmes**

This Aide Memoire provides supporting material for a Ministerial meeting at 7:00pm, Thursday 18 November 2021, on the work the Treasury, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and Inland Revenue are undertaking to provide economic support to individuals as part of the COVID-19 response (Appendix 1 refers).

The focus of this meeting is on adapting the COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme (LSS) and the Short-Term Absence Payment (STAP) to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF). However, the meeting also provides an opportunity for Ministers to consider agencies' work programmes, which are full and pose delivery risks to the current COVID-19 response. Additional work over and above what is outlined in Appendix 1 would require reprioritisation of the existing work programme, and potentially other non-COVID work. We note that the work programme is currently highly changeable due to the fast-paced development of the CPF, but Appendix 1 captures its current state. The responsiveness to the changing environment has also meant agencies have had to focus on adapting status quo supports for the transitional period, rather than focusing on policy work for the CPF 'steady state'.

An additional workstream that Ministers have expressed interest in is for agencies to undertake work on options to provide economic support separate to the LSS and STAP for casual and vulnerable workers. This would require substantial additional policy analysis and is not currently being resourced for the reasons outlined above. We note that MSD is leading a separate workstream on a welfare approach for the CPF, which is focused on individuals who need to self-isolate and require welfare support to do this safely [*COVID-19: A whole of system welfare approach under the COVID Protection Framework* refers – considered at the Social Wellbeing Committee on 17 November 2021]. The work will leverage off existing MSD financial supports, with community providers also providing support for essential needs such as access to food. Agencies consider this work to be the appropriate programme to address Ministers' concerns about individuals who are not being adequately supported by the LSS and STAP.

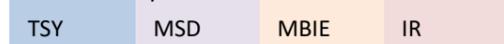
Agencies will review the work programme following the transition to the CPF, when there is a focus on developing 'steady state' supports for the new framework. We will advise as needed on any work prioritisation decisions that may arise for Ministers.

**Gabrielle Barratt**, Senior Analyst, Welfare & Oranga Tamariki, [39]

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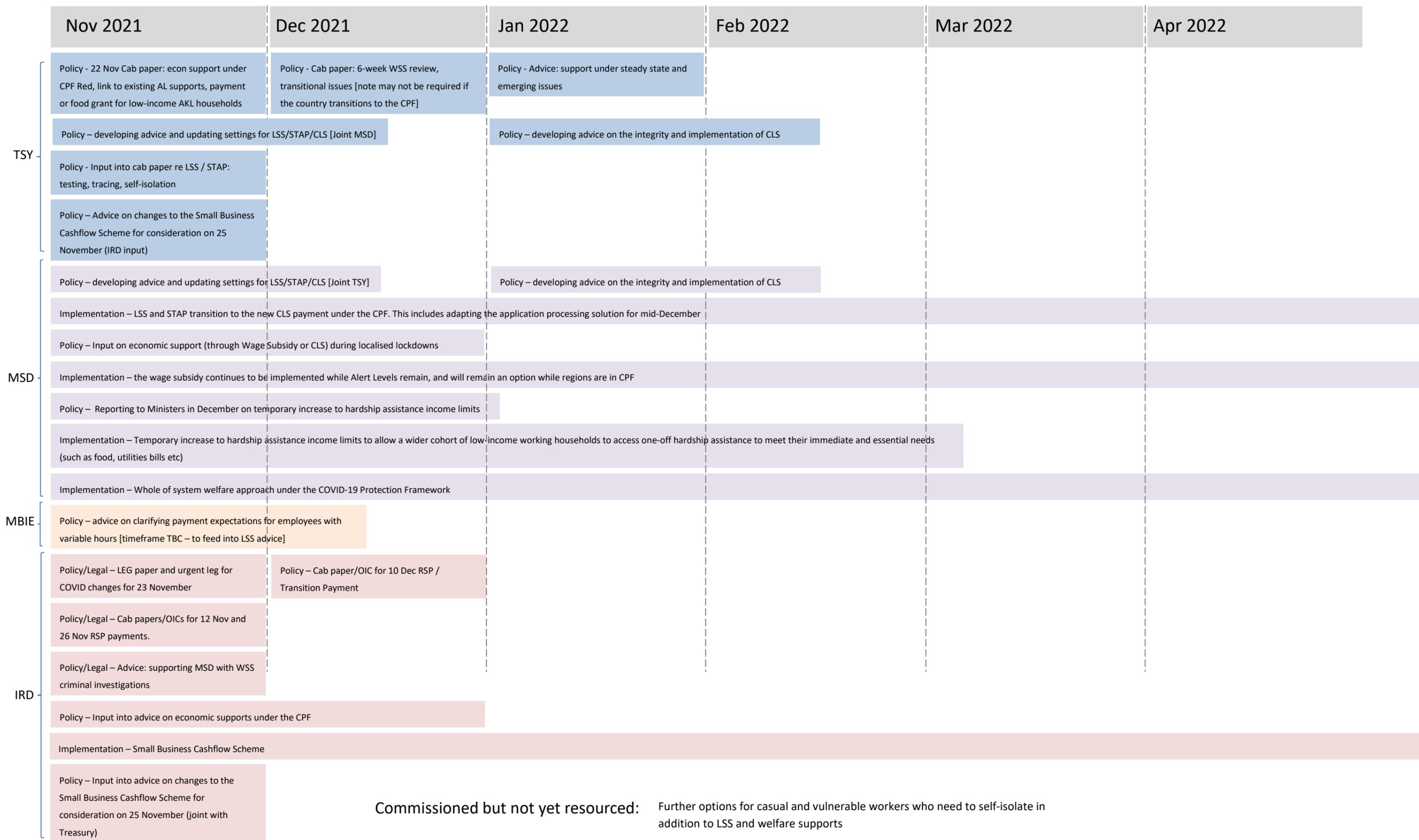
# COVID-19 individualised support work programmes

Work lead key:



Work category key:

Policy, Build, Implementation



**Commissioned but not yet resourced:** Further options for casual and vulnerable workers who need to self-isolate in addition to LSS and welfare supports