



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Government Response Item

Portfolios **Social Development and Employment / Child Poverty Reduction**

On 14 September 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Public Inquiry into the Disappearance of the Phillips Children (the Inquiry) delivered its final report to the Governor-General on 21 July 2026;
- 2 **noted** that in August 2026, the Prime Minister directed the Minister for Social Development and Employment to lead development of the Government Response to the Inquiry;
- 3 **noted** that the Attorney-General is required to present the final Inquiry report to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable, and the Government Response will be announced the same day;
- 4 **noted** that the paper and annex under CAB-26-SUB-0297 outlines the Government Response to the Inquiry's findings and recommendations;
- 5 **agreed** that the paper and annex under CAB-26-SUB-0297 be released at the same time the final Inquiry report is tabled in the House;
- 6 **agreed** that the Government acknowledges all findings and accepts all recommendations of the Inquiry;
- 7 **agreed** to the actions in response to the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry, as set out in the annex under CAB-26-SUB-0297 (as the Government Response Action Plan);
- 8 **agreed** that monitoring and reporting arrangements for the Government Response mirror those of the response to Dame Karen Poutasi's review of the children's system, with reporting on the first week of every month starting from October 2026;
- 9 **directed** officials to report back to the Child and Youth Ministers Group on whether further action is required to improve cross-agency information sharing and collaboration and, if so, provide options to ensure issues raised by the Inquiry are covered in workforce training and guidance;
- 10 **directed** relevant agencies to implement the Government Response through a coordinated cross-agency work programme;

- 11 **invited** responsible Ministers to submit to Cabinet any policy or legislative proposals required to implement the Government Response.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet