



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Changes to the Scope of Social Housing Tenancy Reviews

Portfolio Associate Housing

On 26 March 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in March 2024, the Ministry of Social Development recommenced periodic tenancy reviews for social housing tenants who are paying market rent and have been in social housing for three years or more;
- 2 **noted** that the following groups of social housing tenants are currently exempt from a periodic tenancy review:
 - 2.1 tenants aged 65 or older;
 - 2.2 tenants or their partners with a dependent child or children aged under 18 in their care;
 - 2.3 tenants or their partners receiving Supported Living Payment on the grounds of restricted work capacity or total blindness;
 - 2.4 tenants or their partners receiving Supported Living Payment on the ground of caring for another person; and
 - 2.5 tenants with an agreed lifetime tenure with Housing New Zealand (now with Kāinga Ora);
- 3 **noted** that the objectives of social housing periodic tenancy reviews include:
 - 3.1 helping to ensure that social housing is used by those who are most in need of it, including those currently in emergency housing;
 - 3.2 supporting households into private rentals where appropriate, so they can be safe, strong and independent; and
 - 3.3 ensuring that their current social housing is meeting the needs of the tenant;

- 4 **agreed** to the following changes to expand the group of social housing tenants who are subject to a periodic tenancy review:
- 4.1 increasing the age at which a tenant or their partner is exempt from social housing periodic tenancy reviews from 65 to 70 (but including only those between 65 and 69 years old for periodic tenancy review where they are in multiple bedroom properties with one or more spare bedrooms); and
 - 4.2 limiting exemptions from a periodic tenancy review to social housing tenants or their partners with a dependent child or children aged under 14 (introducing eligibility for reviews for tenants or their partners with a dependent child or children aged between 14 – 18 years old);
- 5 **noted** that following Cabinet agreement, an amendment to the Ministerial Direction on Application of Reviews of Continued Eligibility for Social Housing will be required, and the Ministry of Social Development will need to complete the operational policy design before the changes are implemented in late 2025;
- 6 **authorised** the Associate Minister of Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Housing, and the Minister for Social Development and Employment to take any further final detailed decisions on the policy change outlined in paragraph 4 above.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister for Vocational Education