



Cabinet

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.

Additional Item: Recognising Housing Contributions from All Boarders: Proposed Changes

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 3 March 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in January 2025, Cabinet agreed that:
 - 1.1 Accommodation Supplement will be reviewed as part of a client's Supported Living Payment or Emergency Benefit mandatory review;
 - 1.2 Disability Allowance will have its own mandatory review and review date;
 - 1.3 the review of Accommodation Supplement for Jobseeker Support or Sole Parent Support clients will happen at their main benefit reapplication;
 - 1.4 if a client confirms that the information MSD presented is correct, their benefit will automatically continue, and their review date is reset (except for Emergency Benefit);
 - 1.5 when a client has an engagement with MSD that confirms all of the same circumstances as their mandatory review, their review date will move to 52 weeks from that engagement (except for Emergency Benefit and Disability Allowance);
 - 1.6 if a client's disability costs have not been reviewed in the previous 44 weeks when the relevant review notice is due to be sent, then MSD would be required to complete a mandatory review of the client's Disability Allowance;

[ECO-25-MIN-0002]
- 2 **rescinded** the decisions in 1.1 and 1.2, and instead:
 - 2.1 **agreed** that the specified benefits a client receives will all be part of the same mandatory review;
 - 2.2 **agreed** that Young Parent Payment or Youth Payment clients who receive Accommodation Supplement would not have a mandatory review of their Accommodation Supplement;

- 3 **rescinded** the decision in 1.3, and instead:
- 3.1 **agreed** that for Jobseeker Support or Sole Parent Support clients:
- 3.1.1 review of Accommodation Supplement will happen at their main benefit reapplication; and
- 3.1.2 their Disability Allowance will be reviewed at the same time, if their disability costs have not been confirmed in the past 44 weeks;
- 4 **rescinded** the decision in 1.4, and instead:
- 4.1 **agreed** that if a client confirms that the information MSD presented about their circumstances is correct, their review is complete, meaning that their specified benefits will continue after their review date, and the next review date is set;
- 5 **rescinded** the decision in 1.5, and instead:
- 5.1 **agreed** that when a client has an engagement with MSD that confirms all of the same circumstances as their mandatory review, their review date will move to 52 weeks from that engagement;
- 5.2 **agreed** that if a client's specified benefits have different commencement dates, their review date will be based on their main benefit's commencement date, or if they only receive supplementary assistance, then their review date will be based on the benefit which commenced first;
- 6 **rescinded** the decision in 1.6, because it is no longer required;
- 7 **noted** that further decisions on regulation-making powers will be sought alongside the decision to introduce the bill;
- 8 **noted** that the proactive release of the Cabinet paper *Recognising Housing Contributions from All Boarders* and the Minute resulting from this oral item will occur as part of the Budget 2025 process.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet