

Coversheet

Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill and Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment

These documents have been proactively released.

1 July 2025, Cabinet paper - Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill and Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

1 July 2025, Cabinet Minute LEG-25-MIN-0085, Cabinet Office.

These papers relate to the Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill, which amends the Public and Community Housing Management Act 1992, the Social Security Act 2018 and the Public and Community Housing Management (Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism) Regulations 2018. The bill also makes consequential amendments to the Residential Care and Disability Support Services Act 2018. The amendments are primarily to ensure board payments received from all boarders are included in the calculation of housing subsidies administered by MSD.

These papers also relate to the Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill which amends the Social Security Act 2018, to introduce a requirement that MSD must review a specified benefit at least once every 52 weeks.

Please note:

- the savings in this Cabinet paper differ than the forecasted savings in the *Recognising housing contributions from all boarders* Cabinet paper and Regulatory Impact Statement. The initial forecasted savings were indicative, and these costings were refined through the Budget 2025 process.
- paragraph 10.5 notes changes to Accommodation Supplement to allow the use of Automated Decision-Making (ADM) if required. ADM will not be used for any parts of the Boarders Contributions Initiative when it is first implemented.
- the recommendations relating to the regulation making power only allows for the removal of specified benefits that are subject to mandatory reviews. However, s 48 of the Legislation Act 2019 sets out that a power which authorises a power to make secondary legislation also includes the power to amend or revoke the legislation. The effect of this is the regulation making power agreed by Cabinet allows secondary legislation to both add and remove benefits from the list of specified benefits that are subject to mandatory reviews.

- the title of the Cabinet paper differs from the title of the Cabinet Minute, due to a late decision that content relating to the mandatory review of specific benefits did not fall under the same single scope as the boarders' contributions content, which resulted in the Bill being split into two bills. The Cabinet Minute title is accurate.

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