



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

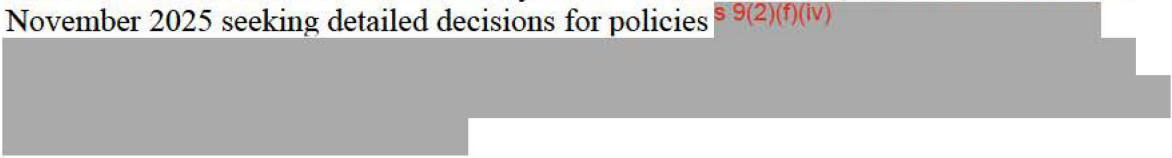
This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Update on Government Response to the Dame Karen Poutasi Review

Portfolio **Child Poverty Reduction**

On 17 September 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the report by Dame Karen Poutasi on the *Joint Review into the Children's Sector: Identification and response to suspected abuse* (the Poutasi Review) identified five gaps in the children's system for preventing harm, and provided 14 recommendations for closing these gaps;
- 2 **agreed** to accept all recommendations from the Poutasi Review;
- 3 **noted** that of the 14 recommendations:
 - 3.1 one is complete (recommendation 11);
 - 3.2 one is complete but will be repeated (recommendation 14); and
 - 3.3 four are underway (recommendations 3, 4, 5, and 10);
- 4 **noted** that an integrated all-of-Government approach focussed on safeguarding children is being taken to implementing the remaining Poutasi Review recommendations, overseen by Child and Youth Ministers;
- 5 **noted** that the outcomes to be achieved from implementing the Poutasi Review are:
 - 5.1 children are safer, with a focus on supporting children whose sole parent is incarcerated; and
 - 5.2 the children's system has a mature and consistent approach to sharing information and responding to suspected abuse;
- 6 **noted** that the Government is focussed on the following key areas of work to progress implementation of the remaining recommendations:
 - 6.1 introduction of a mandatory child protection training and reporting regime for defined workforces (recommendations 8, 9 and 13);
 - 6.2 enhancements to the system to ensure that children whose sole parent is incarcerated are identified and their needs met (recommendations 1, 2 and 6);

- 6.3 reinforcing a clear expectation that children's agencies share information where there are safety and wellbeing concerns for a child (recommendation 7); and
- 6.4 strengthening collective accountability for child safety (recommendation 12);
- 7 **noted** that in regard to mandatory training and reporting, the Government proposes to take a stepped approach beginning with training to mitigate risks;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction intends to report back to Cabinet in November 2025 seeking detailed decisions for policies s 9(2)(f)(iv) 
- 9 s 9(2)(f)(iv) 
- 10 **noted** that the Independent Children's Monitor published a 12-month review of agencies' progress on the recommendations on 12 August 2024 in response to one of the recommendations, and a second review is expected to be published in January 2026;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction intends to announce the Government acceptance of the recommendations, progress to date, and next steps in October 2025.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister for Social Development and Employment
Ministry of Social Development
Office of the Minister of Seniors
Office of the Minister of Police