



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 30 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 S9(2)(ba)(ii) [REDACTED]
- 2 **noted** that in Budget 2025, Cabinet agreed to;
 - 2.1 tighten eligibility to Jobseeker Support and the equivalent Emergency Benefit for 18 and 19 year olds; and
 - 2.2 increase the Accommodation Supplement Entry Threshold for Some Homeowners;

[CAB-25-MIN-0126.61]
- 3 **agreed** to extend of the scope of the Parental Assistance Test (PAT) to include 16 and 17 year olds when:
 - 3.1 in a recognised relationship with a person aged 18 years or older and included as a partner in this person's Jobseeker Support or an equivalent Emergency Benefit; or
 - 3.2 the 16 or 17 year old has a partner who is aged 18 years or older and included or would be included in their Jobseeker Support Student Hardship or an equivalent Emergency Benefit;
- 4 **agreed** that all PAT settings previously agreed for 18 and 19 year olds also extends to the cohort of 16 and 17 year olds in paragraph 3 above;
- 5 **agreed** that where Foster Care Allowance is received by a young person for a child in their care, these young people are not subject to the PAT;
- 6 **agreed** to the inclusion of regulation-making powers in the Bill that enable the Governor-General by Order in Council to make regulations that can:
 - 6.1 include income that has been exempted from the general definition of income, under Part 4 of Schedule 8 of the Social Security Regulations 2018 in the definition of parental income;
 - 6.2 exclude sources of income from the definition of parental income;

- 7 **noted** that a Ministerial Direction will be developed to enact the verification requirements for the Parental Support Gap Test;
- 8 **noted** that the regulations will be made by Order in Council under section 440 of the Social Security Act 2018;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment made a number of decisions under delegated authority to finalise draft legislation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0075;
- 10 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make editorial corrections, or other non-substantive policy neutral drafting changes, to the Bill in preparation for introduction to the House of Representatives;
- 11 **approved** the Social Security (Jobseeker Support and Accommodation Supplement) Amendment Bill [PCO 27129/2.13] for introduction;
- 12 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be:
- 12.1 referred to the Social Services and Community Select Committee for consideration;
- 12.2 enacted by 2 November 2026 for changes relating to tightening eligibility for Jobseeker Support and the equivalent Emergency Benefit, and 1 April 2027 for increasing the entry threshold for some homeowners receiving the Accommodation Supplement.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon James Meager
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Stuart Smith MP
Todd Stephenson MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG