



28 AUG 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 31 July 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, copies of the following documents:

1. *Terror Attack Response Status Update, 6 May 2019*
2. *REP/19/5/395 - Update on work to support those impacted by the terror attacks in Christchurch, 8/05/2019*
3. *AM- Update on work underway to support those impacted by the terror attacks in Christchurch, 20/05/2019*
4. *REP/19/5/452 - Establishing the Christchurch Mosques Attack Welfare Programme, 24/05/2019*
5. *Financial Support Christchurch Mosques Attack Update, 30/05/2019*
6. *REP/19/5/426 - Progressing advice on overhauling the welfare system 24/05/2019*

The following documents are publicly available on the Ministry's website:

- *REP/19/5/452 - Establishing the Christchurch Mosques Attack Welfare Programme* is available here: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/extending-financial-assistance-affected-by-the-christchurch-terrorist-attacks/report-establishing-the-christchurch-mosques-attack-welfare-programme.pdf>
- *Financial Support Christchurch Mosques Attack Update* is available here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/eligibility/emergencies/christchurch-tragedy/christchurch-payment-factsheet/christchurch-mosques-attack-payment-factsheet-english.pdf

The remaining four documents are enclosed as requested.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld from these documents under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. Personal information that could lead to individuals being identified is also withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Some information in the document *REP/19/5/426 – Progressing advice on overhauling the welfare system* is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response in regards to the documents you have requested about the Christchurch terror attacks and the overhaul of the welfare system, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Cassandra Wise
Manager Issue Resolution Service Delivery



Terror Attack Response Status Update 6 May 2019

Ministry of Social Development

Case Management

- MSD is providing a dedicated, proactive case management service to the families of all people killed, and all people identified as injured and their whānau directly affected by the tragedy.
- Case managers have been allocated and attempts have been made to contact 101 families and individuals:
 - We have not been able to reach six families/individuals by phone. We have emailed and sent text messages and will continue to try and make contact to explain the service that MSD is providing and link up with the families / individuals.
 - There are three people who the contact details in the ISR were incorrect for – we are exploring other avenues to identify how we can make contact with these people.
 - There are a further three individuals who are overseas at present, and are not sure when they will return to New Zealand.
- 16 visits have already taken place with impacted families / individuals, and a further 11 visits have been scheduled and will take place this week or next. Visits have taken place at client's homes, in hospital or at Work and Income. Case Managers are also continuing to arrange visits with families and individuals at the convenience of the client.
- The support team from Auckland have now returned home, and the Canterbury-based dedicated case managers will now lead the frontline response.
- Four impacted people who are now based outside of Canterbury have been identified (three in Auckland and one in Dunedin). Case Managers from outside of Canterbury have been arranged to link up directly with these clients.
- A meeting on Saturday 4 May identified a further four clients to link up with. Two of these clients were allocated case managers at the meeting and the other two have been allocated today. In addition, 11 clients asked for further contact from their allocated case manager. Case managers have been in touch with these clients today.

Business support

- MSD Work Brokers are in contact with impacted businesses, including businesses owned by victims and others impacted by the attacks, to understand their needs and provide them with information on available support.
- Thirteen of the businesses in and around the cordoned area had no immediate need, and therefore no further action has been undertaken other than the dissemination of information on available support.
- Eight businesses have had a loss of life or serious injury. We are working closely with these businesses and providing Civil Defence payments where eligible.
- Twenty businesses have received Civil Defence payments to date. As Civil Defence payments are not ongoing payments and need to be applied for each



Terror Attack Response Status Update 6 May 2019

time they are required, MSD Work Brokers are continuing to connect with these businesses to ensure they have a single point of contact for as and when they request assistance with Civil Defence payments.

Policy

- MSD is considering how we can support families with:
 - Driving lessons and licences (particularly targeted to widows from the attacks and teenage sons).
 - Developing financial literacy (both understanding everyday needs such as setting up and using a bank account, paying bills etc, and advice for those who receive a lump sum payment, and how to manage that).
 - ESOL classes, in groups.
 - Employment services and support (MSD core business).
- We are preparing a package for how this support could be delivered, including accessing existing services both within MSD and the wider community. Advice will be finalised this week.
- A paper is being prepared for Cabinet on Monday 13 May, which outlines how financial assistance could be extended to people impacted by the 15 March attacks who are currently ineligible for income support. If agreed, a Ministerial welfare programme could be drafted to support operational changes by around a month after the Cabinet decision.

Donations – Victim Support and Department of Internal Affairs

- DIA is continuing its co-ordination role, supporting the development of an overall strategy for disbursement of the remaining funds, the creation of clear and transparent criteria for disbursement and supporting fundraising organisations to communicate the outcome to critical stakeholders.
- Over the last week, a number of meetings have taken place in order to form a view of the current state of donations and a potential way forward. This has been developed into a draft document for discussion and was well received by the Christchurch leadership group this week.
- There is general agreement within the fund holders that the donations received for individual victims should be distributed in the short term where possible.
- The next stage is to reflect the voice of the victims in the decisions relating to distribution of donations which will be a priority over the coming weeks.
- Victim Support put out a media release on 1 May 2019 announcing the second tranche of lump sum payments to deceased and injured victims.

Community and Agency Meetings

- The Recovery Leaders group met on Tuesday 30 April. At this meeting, MSD provided an update on the case management role and DIA provided an update on the distribution of donations.



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- Over 100 people from the Muslim community came together on Saturday 4 May at a meeting organised by MSD to provide information about the dedicated case management service.
- INFORM, a meeting arranged by the Christchurch City Council took place on 6 May, where representatives from the CDHB, MSD, Immigration NZ, DIA, the council and NGOs; including Christchurch Budget Service, NZ Fire Service, and the Salvation Army provided interagency updates.
- MSD hosted meetings on Monday 6 May with Canterbury MP Electoral Secretaries, and MP office support staff, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Licensed Immigration Advisors and lawyers to advise about the MSD case management service.

Emerging issues

- Housing and accommodation are still the most pressing issues. As part of this we have seen a slight increase in requests for accessible properties, particularly as people are being released from hospital. A meeting was held with Assessable Housing, a Community Housing Provider, where it confirmed it was prepared to consider private rentals for people in need of housing assistance, including those who are not eligible for other support with housing. The key difficulty will be finding available housing. Assessable Housing has 58 properties, but only one vacancy expected in the coming weeks.
- Mental Injury continues to be a theme arising, especially for those who do not qualify for cover under ACC, or MSD assistance.
- Immigration status remains an issue for some, particularly those family members who arrived in the country following the March 15 attack and wish to remain.
- Ramadan began on 6 May. It is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. It involves abstaining from eating and drinking among other things, from dawn to sunset. MSD case managers have received cultural training and advice on this so that they can contact impacted persons and arrange visits as appropriate around families' Ramadan commitments.

Please note this refers to 'Assessable Housing' in error. It should say 'Accessible Properties'.

Immigration New Zealand

- As at Wednesday 1 May, Immigration New Zealand has received 34 Expressions of Interest in the new residence policy for people who were directly affected by the Mosque attacks.
- A stakeholder training session on the new residence category is scheduled for Monday 6 May with a selected group of Licensed Immigration Advisors, Immigration Lawyers and also Electorate agents.



Terror Attack Response Status Update 6 May 2019

- The managers of the Christchurch Immigration office will attend a Muslim community leaders meeting on Wednesday 1 May to brief community leaders on the new residence category.
- A total of 361 visas have been decided to date (this includes 4 withdrawals and 25 declines).

Education

- We are contributing to a number of cross government groups including the Government Leaders Group, INFORM sector coordination group, Kai Whakaoranga Steering Group, Operational Leaders Group, Funding Leaders across Government, Workforce Welfare group and the Recovery Communications Group.
- We are contacting all schools regarding the presence and well-being of Muslim families as they start the term. We will work with schools to develop return to school plans for any students that have not yet returned.
- KPMG has been engaged to conduct a review of the Canterbury lockdown. Schools and Early Learning Services will be sent a survey link in early May with a number of interviews and focus groups happening with schools, parents and students during May.
- We are continuing to work with immigration regarding the placement of long term international visitors into schools.
- We are monitoring a number of data sources that may indicate adverse well-being outcomes for students so that we can respond to any trends.
- We are planning for an increased demand for support in schools and services during term 2. This includes an increased Traumatic Incident capability.

Health

- Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) lead the local response to the Canterbury population and the Ministry of Health continues to work closely with them to support the local and national response.

Local Christchurch response:

- Free GP visits continue to be available for people affected in Christchurch. Approximately 100 more referrals have been received but Canterbury DHB do not have the data on how many are directly related to the Christchurch mosque attacks.
- Primary mental health has added capacity from Kahui Tu Kaha Muslim Team (Auckland based NGO) – this is agreed for coming 3 months while we build local capability.



Terror Attack Response Status Update 6 May 2019

- Canterbury DHB (CDHB) are adding mental health expertise into Christchurch Resettlement Services (CRS).
- Operational group for integrated service response for families impacted has been set up to review multi agency families and resolve issues through a lead contact.
- Mana Ake continuing to support school communities with information resources and direct contact with children and families as needed.
- CDHB are developing a virtual Resilience Hub – online resource to access information and be connected to health and other agencies as required.
- City Leaders meetings coordinated by CDHB to stay connected, share information and guide direction.

National response:

- Access to free support from a trained counsellor is available nationally through the 1737 helpline, 24/7. The total number of sessions delivered through 1737 from 15 March to 22 April 2019 is 16,768 with the provider reporting volumes 25% higher than normal (media reporting continues to trigger increases in contacts).
- The 1737 line has put in additional resourcing until the end of April.
- In addition to the people who have accessed GP and/or 1737, there has also been 33 referrals to Muslim support workers (additional capacity from Auckland based NGO service).



Aide-mémoire

Date: 8 May 2019

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

For: Hon Megan Woods, Minister responsible for coordinating government's response in Christchurch

File Reference: REP/19/5/395

Update on work underway to support those impacted by the Terror Attacks in Christchurch

1. This aide-memoire provides you with an update on work underway in Christchurch to support those impacted by the 15 March Terror Attacks.

Case management update

2. Progress has been made with the case management approach underway in Christchurch. In summary:

- There are now 103 individuals who we are working with. We are working with these individuals in the context of their wider family, where agreed with the individual and appropriate. At this early stage of case management we are still working to understand each individual's family network and relationships, but this will become clearer over time. By way of context, we know that some of the 103 individuals that we are working with are related. For example, there are cases where we are working with two people from the same family who are individually recorded, however, we are working with them as part of the same family. Where appropriate, the same case manager will work with all members of a family.
- The number of people we are working with has increased slightly from last week because we have identified a further two clients needing a case management approach, including one widow who has returned to New Zealand.
- All 103 individuals have been assigned a case manager.
- Case managers have contacted 97 of the individuals/families and advised about the case management service that MSD is providing.
- There are six people who we have not been able to contact:
 - two people are overseas at present. We will contact them when they return
 - four people have not been contacted because we do not have the correct contact details for them from the ISR database. We are working with Victim Support to find out the correct contact details for these people.

- Case managers began visiting the individuals and their families on 30 April. Since then, 29 visits have been undertaken. Visits are mostly taking place at family homes, in hospital or at Work and Income sites.
- At your meeting with Muslim community members on Saturday 4 May, we identified a further four clients who may be in need of case management support. We were able to allocate two case managers to clients on the evening, and the other two were allocated case managers on Monday 6 May. The case managers are working with these people at present to identify if they should be managed through the case management approach or not. As such, these cases are not yet reflected in the 103 individuals we are working with.
- In addition, 11 people who were at the meeting on Saturday, who have already been allocated a case manager and had an initial contact, asked for their case manager to contact them again. Case managers made further calls to these 11 clients on Monday 6 May.

We have identified 13 individuals who need intensive wrap-around support

- MSD is working closely with 13 individuals and their families to provide a co-ordinated response across government that meets the complex needs that these individuals and their families are facing.
- Some of the issues that we are working to address include: housing/accommodation; immigration; mental health / trauma support; financial assistance and hardship.
- Tomorrow, multiple agencies are coming together to meet with one of the people who we have identified in this group needing intensive wrap-around support and determine how we can work together to meet the needs of this individual and their family.
- We are also arranging similar meetings where agencies come together to work with the other twelve individuals and their families who also require intensive wrap-around support.

Examples of case management

3. There has been a very positive reaction from the individuals and their families to the MSD case management response. We are also seeing some positive outcomes achieved for people, even at this early stage of case management. By way of example, s 9(2)(a)

- s 9(2)(a)
- The family is not eligible for emergency housing as they are receiving ACC for the injury which puts them over the income limit test for eligibility for a main benefit, and they do not meet the residency requirements.
- We have been working with the family and other community agencies to identify a housing solution. The family has now found a suitable private rental property which is both accessible and large enough for their growing family, however, the costs of moving in to this property are prohibitive for the family.

- s 9(2)(a) MSD and Victim Support worked together to identify assistance to support this family to get into their new home. To this end, Victim Support is meeting the cost of bond and rent in advance and MSD is providing an Accommodation Supplement to help them to meet ongoing housing costs.
- s 9(2)(a)
- We will continue to work with this family through the case management approach and support them with any other needs as they arise.

4. s 9(2)(a)

- s 9(2)(a)
- s 9(2)(a)
- s 9(2)(a)
- s 9(2)(a)

Emerging Issues

5. Agencies are meeting weekly with Muslim community representatives at the INFORM/sector meetings at the Hagley Netball Centre. Some of the issues discussed at these meetings include needs around:
 - Victim Support funding
 - counselling services
 - immigration
6. MSD Case managers will work with individuals and other agencies to help address any issues that arise for those individuals and their families who we are working with.
7. Support for Muslim women (particularly widows), has been raised as an issue, including:
 - learning to drive
 - financial literacy
 - support with ESOL
 - employment services and support
8. In response, MSD is preparing a package of support to address the identified needs of women from the Muslim community. Advice will be provided to you on how we propose to meet these needs, later this week.

9. The court process has also been raised as an issue of concern for the community.
10. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has met with MSD case managers to provide information on the role of Court Victim Advisors (CVA). Four CVAs have been appointed to provide support for impacted people around the court case. MOJ has advised that the CVAs will provide advice on court procedures and what to expect, and they can assist people with accessing counselling if required. The CVAs will advise the case managers after they have communicated with people who we are working with, so case managers are aware of what is being communicated and, if other issues are raised in case management that are related to the Court case, our case managers will work collaboratively with the CVAs to ensure appropriate support is being provided.

Policy update

11. Minister Sepuloni will take a paper to Cabinet on Monday 13 May, which outlines how financial assistance could be extended to people impacted by the 15 March attacks who are currently ineligible for income support. If agreed, a Ministerial welfare programme could be drafted to support operational changes by around a month after the Cabinet decision.

Next report

12. We will provide a further update on Monday 13 May.

Author: s 9(2)(a), Senior Policy Analyst

Responsible manager: Liz Jones, Associate DCE Service Delivery



Aide-mémoire

Date: 17 May 2019

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

For: Hon Megan Woods, Minister responsible for coordinating government's response in Christchurch

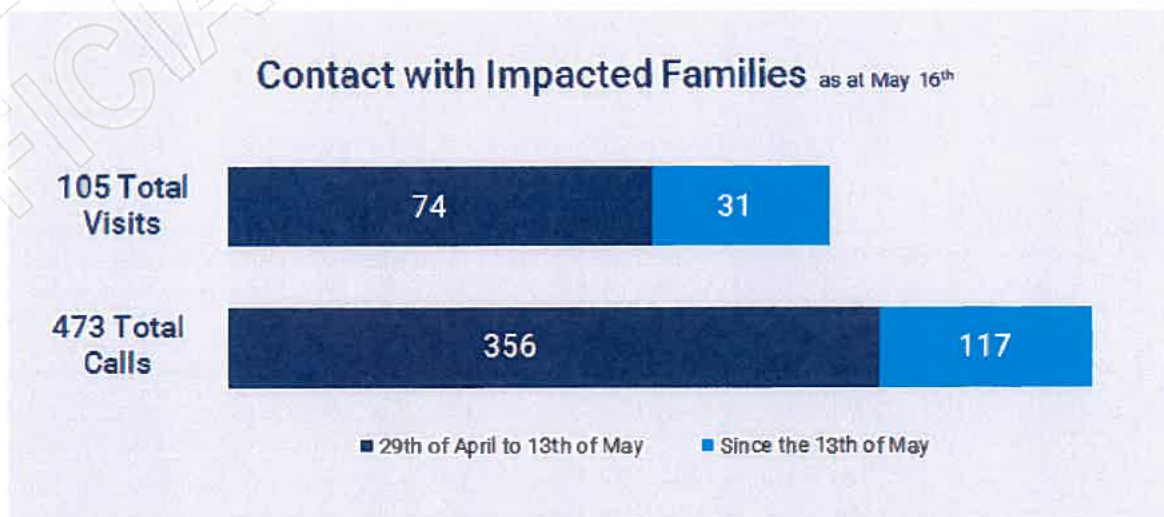
File Reference: REP/19/5/429

Update on work underway to support those impacted by the Terror Attacks in Christchurch

1. This aide-memoire provides you with an update on work underway in Christchurch to support those impacted by the 15 March Terror Attacks.

Case management update

2. Work has been underway within MSD's case management data recording system to link the people we are working with by relationship. We are now able to say that we are working with 125 families.
3. Of those 125 families we know:
 - a. that 36 of the families have a total of 73 children
 - b. there have been 105 visits undertaken by the dedicated case managers to date, with 31 of these visits since Monday this week
 - c. that case managers have made 473 calls to the families we are working with, and 117 of these have been since Monday this week.



4. Since our report on Monday, we have carried out a reconciliation and have now included 16 home visits that were not previously recorded. This has been corrected and updated

information is shown in the graph above. Ongoing reporting will now be provided to you on a weekly basis with up-to-date numbers on home visits.

5. This week the 16 dedicated case managers have engaged with each of the 12 clients identified as needing intensive wrap-around support. All immediate needs of these clients have been met, but there are a number of issues that will require ongoing support for each of these clients, such as support with immigration matters, and finding more suitable housing solutions that are permanent for the families. We are working closely with Immigration NZ and are escalating cases as necessary.

Examples of how we are supporting people

6. We are working with a s 9(2)(a) man and his s 9(2)(a) wife. The husband was s 9(2)(a) and is receiving ACC due to being unable to work full time. Despite being unwell, his wife was continuing to work full-time. Their case manager has facilitated the granting of s 9(2)(a) for this couple, who had not previously applied due to misinformation in relation to their residential qualification. This has meant that this couple can reduce their hours of work, taking a further stress off them.
7. MSD was able to work collaboratively with other agencies to find suitable accommodation for a family. s 9(2)(a). This was not sustainable for the family, who required more space. MSD was able to link up the family's social worker from s 9(2)(a) with the s 9(2)(a). By working together, a more suitable housing solution was identified so that some of the family can be accommodated elsewhere while some remain in the accommodation at s 9(2)(a). The family is happy with the solution found for them, and will move on Monday 20 May.

Policy update

8. In line with the Cabinet Business Committee agreement to extend financial assistance to people affected by the Mosque shootings who are ineligible for ordinary supports [CBC-19-MIN-0021 refers], work is currently underway to:
 - a. draft amendments the Social Security Act Regulations
 - b. design and draft a Ministerial Welfare Programme to extend financial assistance to a wider number of people in the Christchurch Muslim community, as agreed by the Cabinet Business Committee on Monday 13 May.
9. We anticipate that this additional support will be complete and in place so that payments can be made to eligible people from early June.

Meeting updates

10. The meeting with the Muslim community and Victim Support on Wednesday 15 May was an opportunity for the community to share ideas with Victim Support about how they feel the donations should be apportioned. We understand the opportunity to meet was appreciated by those who were at the meeting. Some of the people present raised concerns directly with MSD. These issues were primarily in relation to immigration status of family members. MSD has been in touch with these people to let them know that we are working to get an answer to their issue. Where the issues raised are in relation to another agency's work, we are working collaboratively with that agency.
11. John Henderson will attend an Iftar (dinner), hosted by the Canterbury Muslimah Network next Friday, 24 May. The invitation is in recognition of the support and commitment that MSD and the government overall is continuing to provide to the

Christchurch Muslim community. Other officials have also been invited. This is one of many ways that the community is demonstrating its thanks for the support that the Government is providing.

Next report

12. We will report to you again on Friday 24 May.

Author: s 9(2)(a) , Senior Policy Analyst

Responsible manager: Liz Jones, Associate DCE Service Delivery



Report

Date: 24 May 2019

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development

Progressing advice on overhauling the welfare system

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report outlines how we are developing a comprehensive programme of work to deliver the long-term changes needed to fulfil the Government's vision to overhaul the welfare system.

Executive summary

- 2 The Government is committed to overhauling the welfare system. Some initial announcements have been made about how the Government is starting to overhaul the welfare system but further work is needed to develop a comprehensive programme of work. Responding to the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) report is being incorporated into this overhaul.
- 3 Given the potential scale and complexity of the changes to the welfare system, we will need to have ongoing conversations with you and your office to help navigate a pathway through the overhaul of the welfare system. In the coming months we will undertake a series of discussions with you about progressing the overhaul of the welfare system. We suggest the following sequence of discussions:
 - The first step: Early possible decisions on how we are working, particularly how to integrate Te Tiriti considerations in the context of the welfare overhaul.
 - The second step: Budget 2020 decisions and beyond.
 - The third step: an outline of the long-term work programme.
 - The fourth step: the draft Cabinet paper providing an overview of progress on priority areas and seeking approval of actions to progress in the long-term work programme.
- 4 There are many aspects of the welfare system overhaul that will necessarily require leadership across portfolios. We are continuing to work collaboratively with other agencies:
 - Inland Revenue, The Treasury and the Child Poverty Unit in DPMC on improving income adequacy for people receiving financial support from the welfare system. The Ministry of Education will also be consulted as appropriate in terms of the implications for the Student Support system.
 - The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Tertiary Education Commission on active labour market policies.
 - The Ministry of Health on improving outcomes for people with health conditions, disabled people, and carers.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on the WEAG's recommendations related to the supply of housing, particularly recommendations 29, 30 and 34.
- With regard to the foundational aspects of the reforms (the purposes and principles of the welfare system, the role of Te Tiriti, governance and enabling functions such as data and analytics), MSD is considering the interface with a range of Ministerial portfolios. This includes Housing, Employment, Youth, Whānau Ora, Māori Development, Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, Health, Education, Child Poverty Reduction and Children, as well as with Ministers responsible for central agencies.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** the indicative sequence of discussions we will have with you and your office in the coming months to navigate a pathway through the overhaul of the welfare system.
- 2 **note** the engagement with other Ministers and agencies needed and underway to achieve change in the welfare system.

Fiona Carter-Giddings
General Manager
Policy Group

Date

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development

Date

Background

- 5 The Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) was established in May 2018 to provide the Government with advice on the overhaul of the welfare system [SWC-18-MIN-0050]. In February 2019 the WEAG provided you with its final advice in their report *Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand* which recommended significant and large-scale reform of the welfare system.
- 6 Underpinning all the WEAG's recommendations is the need to rebalance the social contract that the welfare system is based on. This means providing income support sufficient for an adequate standard of living, employment support and treating people receiving this support with respect. In return, the people receiving this support would be expected to take up opportunities to participate meaningfully in their whānau and communities.
- 7 You have made some initial announcements about how the Government is starting to overhaul the welfare system in line with the WEAG's recommendations [CAB-19-MIN-0170] but further work is needed to bring about significant change.

Overview of upcoming advice on overhauling the welfare system

- 8 The Government is committed to overhauling the welfare system. This involves a commitment to improving wellbeing by supporting positive long-term outcomes for those engaged in the welfare system. Significant further work is needed to develop a comprehensive programme of work to overhaul the welfare system. Responding to the WEAG report is being incorporated into this overhaul.

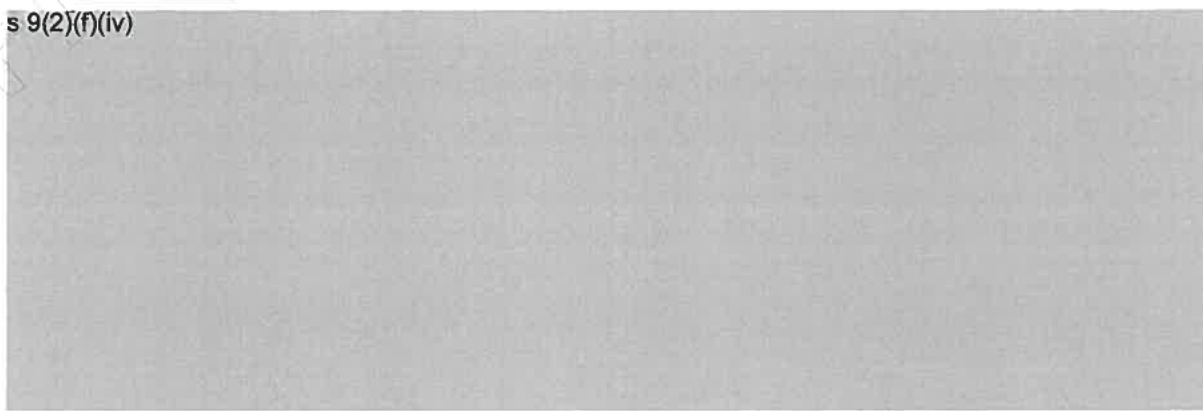
We will require a series of discussions with you over the next few months to progress overhauling the welfare system

- 9 Substantially changing the welfare system to improve long-term outcomes and wellbeing for those eligible for support from the welfare system is complex and will take time. This paper outlines how we are developing a comprehensive programme of work to deliver the long-term changes needed to fulfil the Government's vision for the welfare system.
- 10 Given the potential scale and complexity of the changes to the welfare system, we will need to have ongoing conversations with you about the timeframes for the decisions outlined below.

The first step: Early advice on how we are working to overhaul the welfare system

- 11 We will provide you with a paper seeking your preferences and a mandate for framing the welfare overhaul work programme. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

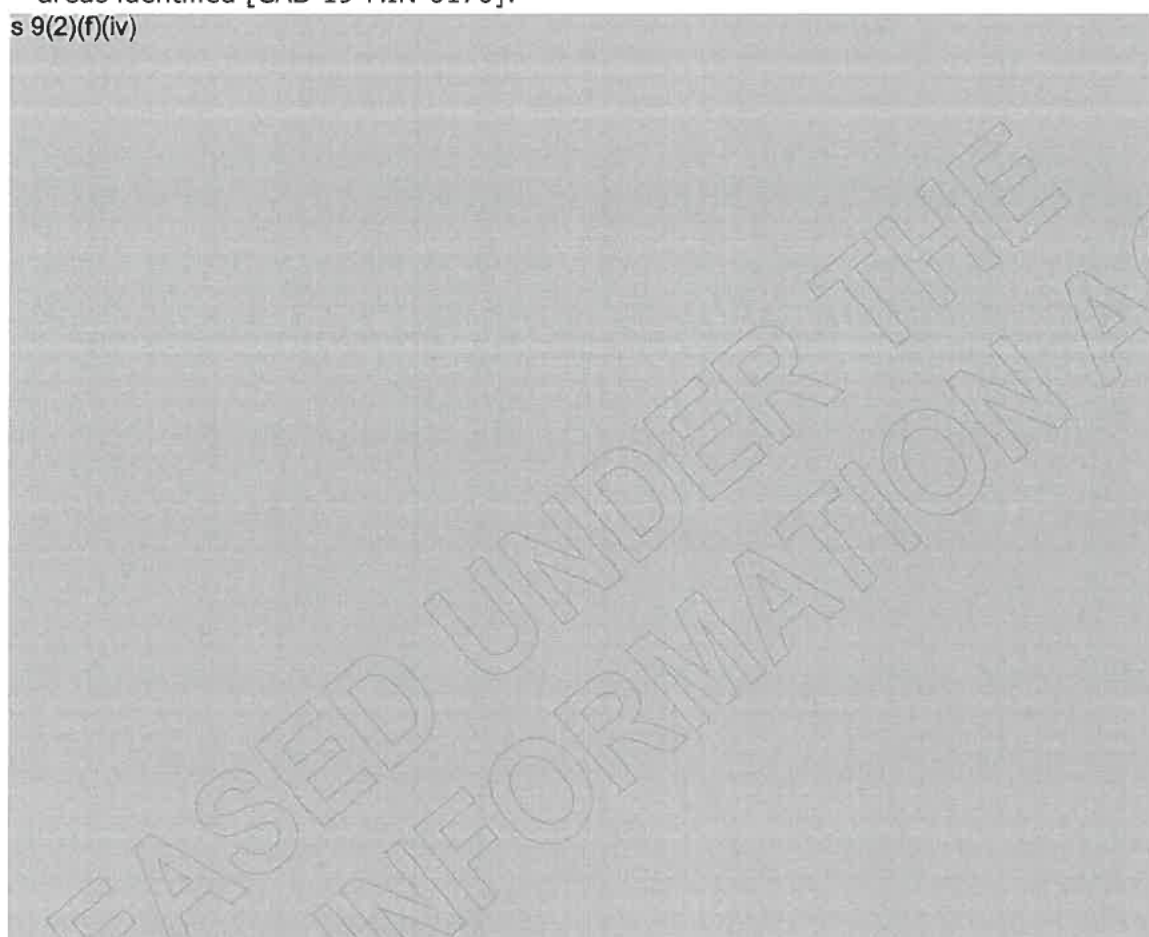
s 9(2)(f)(iv)



The second step: Budget 2020 advice and beyond

- 14 We will report back to you with options for Budget 2020 bids that will contribute to overhauling the welfare system. The options will focus on the Government priority areas identified [CAB-19-MIN-0170]:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



- 15 We will also provide you with advice on:


- interdependencies associated with the options
- engagement with other Ministers
- key implications of changes in terms of legislation and implementation

The third step: an outline of the long term work programme

- 16 This report will build on earlier advice to provide the scope of a long-term work programme to overhaul the welfare system, including:

- an outline of the high level 3–5 year work programme to overhaul the welfare system (previously sent to you and an updated version is attached as Appendix One) which is likely to encompass reforms in the following areas:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The fourth step: draft Cabinet paper

- 17 We will then provide you with a draft Cabinet paper for Ministerial and cross-party consultation. The paper will cover an overview of progress on the three priority areas and seek approval on what to progress with the long-term work programme.

Engagement with other agencies is needed to achieve change in the welfare system

- 18 There are many aspects of the welfare system overhaul that will necessarily require leadership across portfolios.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Cross-agency collaboration is needed on income adequacy


- 20 We will provide joint advice with Inland Revenue, The Treasury and the Child Poverty Unit in DPMC on improving income adequacy for people receiving financial support from the welfare system, as the advice crosses multiple Ministerial portfolios. We have set up a cross-agency working group on income adequacy to progress this advice. The Ministry of Education will also be consulted as appropriate in terms of the implications for the Student Support system.

The Labour Market Ministers Group can play a key role in progressing advice on Active Labour Market Policies

- 21 Employment and labour market levers sit within numerous agencies including MSD, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission. Providing a cohesive view across the labour market is a valuable role that the Labour Market Ministers Group (LMMG), as well as other key Ministers, could play in this process.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



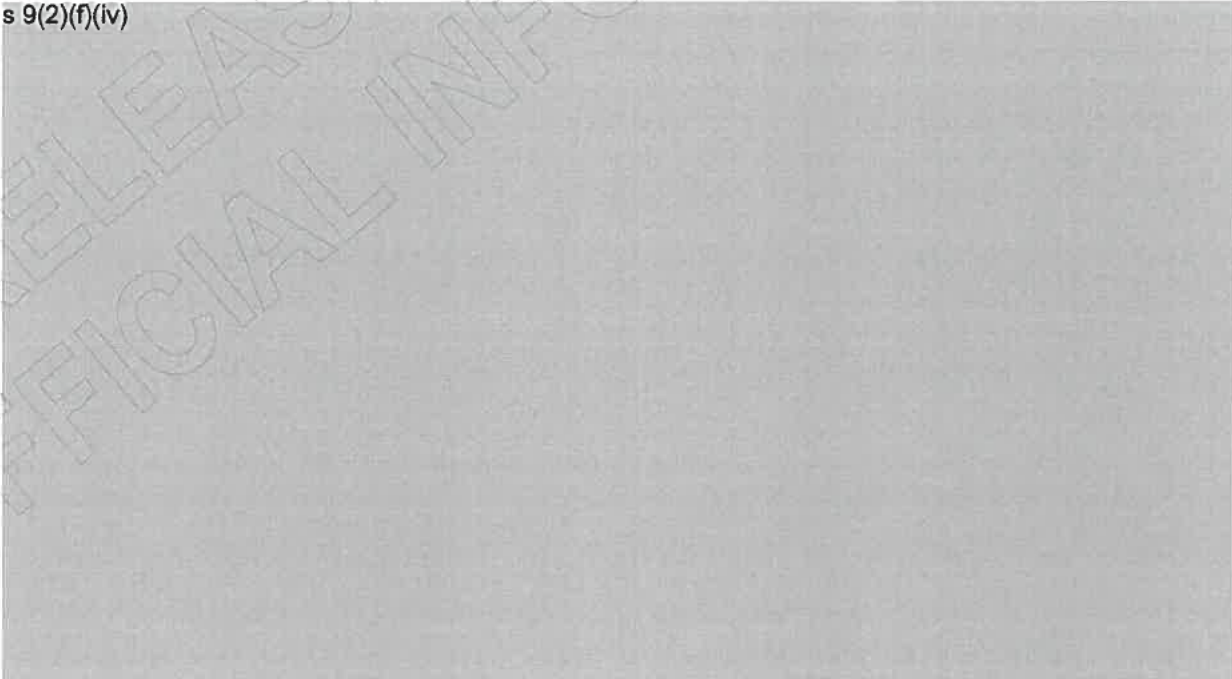
25 We propose that you:

- discuss the cross-portfolio priorities with the LMMG
- seek their agreement to a programme of work related to the welfare overhaul that they could oversee
- seek their agreement to dedicate resources to progress this work.

26 MSD has been discussing with other agencies how to approach areas of shared interest, and can provide you with further advice to support this meeting.


Health and disability sector involvement is needed to improve outcomes for disabled people, people with health conditions and carers

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



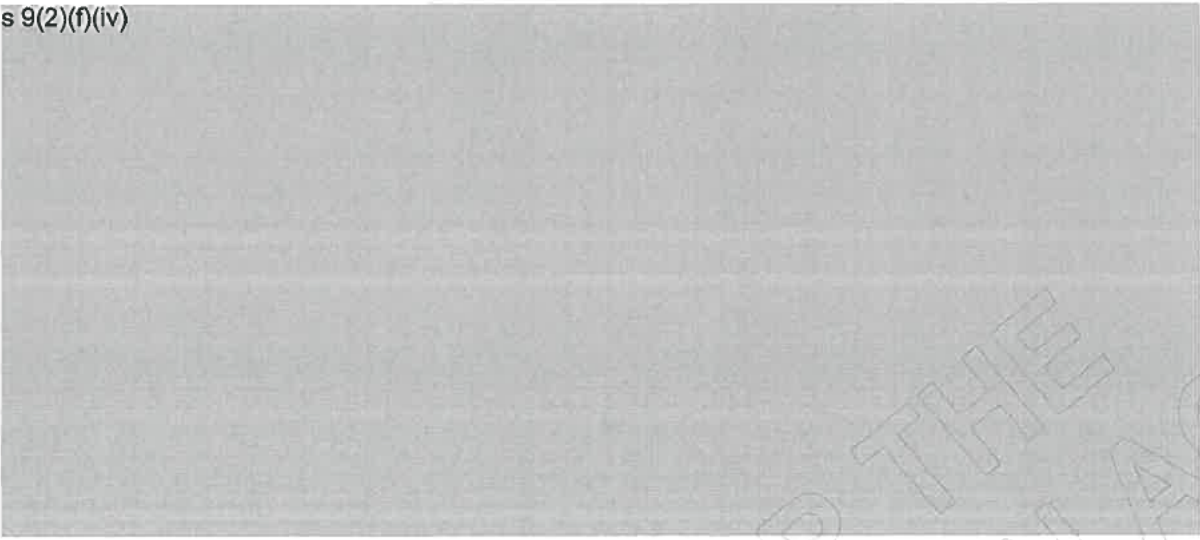
30 There are a number of related reviews and work programmes where the same issues are being looked at and recommendations may be consistent. We are working with relevant agencies to align advice as much as possible. These include:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Progressing advice on overhauling the welfare system


s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Managing areas that interface with Housing

- 32 The WEAG report highlighted the difficulties those on low incomes have in accessing affordable, good quality housing and how housing policy and affordability is crucial to the wellbeing of low and middle income families. In addition to the financial impacts of unaffordable housing, housing is a key determinant of a person's ability to engage with the labour market, their security, their financial and social resilience, and their mental wellbeing.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Next steps

- 34 We are available to discuss this advice with you at our next Officials' Meeting on 27 May 2019. We will continue to work with you and your office on next steps for the advice.

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Author: s 9(2)(a)



Responsible manager: (Fiona Carter-Giddings, General Manager, Policy Group)

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