



10 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2026, which was transferred to the Ministry on 13 May 2026, requesting information about boarder income changes, including Treasury advice.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *the Treasury advice relating to this policy change*

Please find this information attached to this letter titled "Treasury advice on boarders contribution changes". Please note as discussed with you on 15 May 2026, staff names and contact details have been withheld as out of scope.

- *the Regulatory Impact Statement*

The Ministry did not produce a Regulatory Impact Statement for these changes however did produce a Supplementary Analysis Report which is available online here: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/supplementary-analysis-report-treatment-of-housing-contributions-from-boarders.pdf

- *the internal MSD policy justification for treating non commercial family contributions as income*

This information is publicly available online here: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2025/including-boarders-contributions-in-the-calculations-for-private-and-social-housing/rep-24-9-865-treatment-of-housing-contributions-from-boarders.pdf

It is contained within the policy objectives section on page 3 of Annex 1 in the report linked above.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request for information about boarder income changes, including Treasury advice, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

From: Out of scope

Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2025 4:14 pm

To: Out of scope

Cc: Out of scope

<Out of scope

Subject: RE: For dept consultation - Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

[SEEMAIL][SENSITIVE]

Kia ora Out of scope

No comments from us on the LEG paper.

Ngā mihi

Out of scope | **Vote Manager | Welfare and Oranga Tamariki | Te Tai Ōhanga – The Treasury**

Out of scope

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From: Out of scope

Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 12:12 pm

To: Out of scope

Cc: Out of scope

Subject: RE: or comment - Further decisions on Budget 2024 initiative: Treatment of housing contributions from boarders

Kia ora Out of scope all,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this paper, for the updated costings and the below context. Apologies also for the delay in getting back to you; appreciate your flexibility on the deadline and hopefully this is still useful.

Substance: our main comment on substance is that the section on 'excess income' is quite technical, and felt quite hard to follow in places. We referred to Appendix 2 as well but still felt quite confused. It would be very helpful if the paper could set this out in slightly plainer language and clarify any associated concerns. At the moment we're not sure how much we should be focusing on this; the report highlights various risks associated with the proposed course of action, so we'd be very grateful if you could clarify how significant these might be. For instance, do these affect the certainty of the additional IRR revenue that's now forecast?

Process & delegation: if Ministers are agreeing to financial changes (as opposed to policy changes), the Budget financial recommendation doesn't provide them with sufficient delegation to make this decision; see recommendation 24 below. This should be flagged in the report, and then is probably worth a brief discussion asap with the right people at your end and myself/James (cc'd). There might be a workaround to avoid having to go back to Cabinet, but we will need to work this through.

Additional Recommendations

- 20 **note** that when a person receives contributions from one or two boarders towards their housing costs, these contributions are not currently counted when MSD assesses the amount and type of housing subsidies (Accommodation Supplement, Temporary Additional Support, the ~~grandparented~~ Special Benefit and the Income-Related Rent Subsidy) that the person is eligible for;
- 21 **agree** to count the housing contribution from all boarders in the assessment of housing subsidies from 1 April 2026;
- 22 **note** that it is estimated that around 12,300 recipients of the Accommodation Supplement have one or more boarders who are also receiving the Accommodation Supplement, that around 7,700 social housing tenants have boarders, and that there are also other adults living in households who receive a housing subsidy and those other adults contribute to the household's housing costs;
- 23 **note** that it is possible that the change could discourage some lower income households from taking in boarders, although many boarding arrangements appear to reflect family responsibilities and are therefore likely to continue;
- 24 **authorise** the Minister for Social Development and Employment, the Associate Minister of Housing (Social Housing), and other Ministers as appropriate to make final decisions on the policy details of the change outlined at 21;
- 25 **note** that the decision in recommendation 21 above will require amendments to the Social Security Act 2018, the Social Security Regulations 2018 and the Public and Community Housing Management (Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism) Regulations 2018;
- 26 **invite** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to issue drafting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions in 21 above;
- 27 **note** that this initiative relates to initiative 16195 in Vote Housing and Urban Development;

More broadly:

- **Recommendations on the Privacy Act and Automated Decision-Making:** these sound sensible. Thanks for confirming that you're coordinating this with the central ADM workstream team at MSD.
- **Definitions of 'renter' and 'boarder':** we'll defer to your expertise here, but it would be good to confirm that MHUD and IRD are happy with these and that there's agreement this wouldn't have unintended consequences/cause confusion re differing definitions of each in different agencies/for different services. Subject to confirmation that both are content, this feels like a relatively small decision, so we're not concerned about it being taken through a LEG paper.

Finally, can we check that the costings have also been adjusted for the new earlier implementation date? Thanks again for your engagement on this. Happy to find a time to call this afternoon as convenient.

Ngā mihi,

Nye

Out of scope

| Senior Analyst | Out of scope

Welfare & Oranga Tamariki | Te Tai Ōhanga – The Treasury

From: Out of scope

Sent: Friday, 7 February 2025 1:48 pm

To: Out of scope

Cc: Out of scope

Subject: RE: For review: Draft Supplementary Analysis Report (SAR) on the treatment of housing contributions from boarders

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Out of scope

No comments on the SAR from us.

Ngā mihi

Out of scope

| **Vote Manager | Welfare and Oranga Tamariki | Te Tai Ōhanga – The Treasury**

Out of scope

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