



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Social Security (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio                      Children

On 21 July 2020, the Cabinet Legislation Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-20-MIN-0343]:

- 1        **noted** that the Social Security (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category four priority on the 2020 Legislation Programme (to be referred to select committee in the year);
- 2        **noted** that the Bill amends the Social Security Act 2018 to give effect to the following two initiatives that improve financial assistance for caregivers:
  - 2.1      extending eligibility for the Orphan's Benefit (OB) and Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) to principal caregivers who may provide care for less than 12 months (by removing the '12-month rule');
  - 2.2      extending the Christmas and Birthday Allowance to OB and UCB caregivers at the same rate as that currently provided to recipients of the Foster Care Allowance;
- 3        **approved** the Social Security (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill [PCO 22606/11.0] for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 4        **noted** that the Minister for Children will be the Minister in charge of the Bill;
- 5        **agreed** that the Bill be introduced on 30 July 2020;
- 6        **agreed** that the government propose that the Bill be:
  - 6.1      referred to the Social Services and Community Committee for consideration;
  - 6.2      enacted by 1 July 2021.

Gerrard Carter  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendees: (see over)**

**Present:**

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Tracey Martin  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Julie Ann Genter  
Hon Eugenie Sage  
Michael Wood MP (Senior Government Whip)

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for LEG