



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Reforming Financial Assistance and Support for Caregivers: Update

Portfolio Children

On 17 March 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1 **noted** that in December 2019, SWC agreed to principles for caregiver financial assistance reforms, and invited the Minister for Children to report back with an update on a work programme to reform the system of financial assistance for caregivers that includes exploring a simplified and unified payment model for all caregiver payments [SWC-19-MIN-0199];
- 2 **noted** that an effective caregiver financial assistance system supports tamariki to thrive under the protection of their family, whānau, hapū or iwi and prevents the need for tamariki to enter or re-enter State care;
- 3 **noted** that progress has been made to address some of the most immediate issues tamariki and their caregivers experience in the current system, and to move towards the strategic direction;
- 4 **noted** that officials are exploring a simplified and unified payment model for all caregiver payments, and that this work may have significant operational, legislative and fiscal implications;
- 5 **noted** that officials will engage with strategic partners, iwi and Māori organisations, NGOs and caregivers to test and refine policy proposals;
- 6 **invited** the Minister for Children to report back to SWC by December 2021 seeking agreement to a new payment model.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC