



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Child Wellbeing Strategy Work Programme and Budget Implications

Portfolios **Child Poverty Reduction / Children**

On 17 September 2018, following reference from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC), Cabinet:

Background

- 1 **noted** that in May 2018, SWC:
 - 1.1 agreed to the broad framing of child wellbeing for the purposes of public engagement, including a draft vision statement, a set of outcomes and an indicative list of 16 focus areas for further policy work;
 - 1.2 directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to coordinate exploratory policy work on six initial focus areas s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
 - 1.3 invited the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and the Minister for Children to report to Cabinet in September 2018 with a summary of feedback from public engagement to date and advice on:
 - 1.3.1 the proposed framing of wellbeing, the vision statement, outcomes framework, and the long list of 16 focus areas for ongoing work; and
 - 1.3.2 a final set of initial focus areas, s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] and the development of the first Child Wellbeing Strategy;

[SWC-18-MIN-0208]

Engagement

- 2 **noted** that officials have undertaken formative engagement with interested stakeholder groups over the May to July 2018 period, to share thinking on the possible content and areas of focus for the Child Wellbeing Strategy and to test engagement approaches;

- 3 **noted** that a plan for a formal and more comprehensive public engagement process was approved by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and the Minister for Children with portfolio Ministers and the Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, the Minister for Māori Development, and the Minister for Whānau Ora in August 2018, and will be rolled out over the remainder of the calendar year;

Framing of child wellbeing

- 4 **noted** that early, formative engagement suggests that the draft framing of child wellbeing is generally encompassing of the issues that stakeholders would anticipate being covered in a Child Wellbeing Strategy;
- 5 **noted** that feedback also suggested that the framing could be strengthened in a number of other areas, including:
- 5.1 better reflecting Te Ao Māori, the important contexts of family, whānau and culture in children's lives and the importance of love and of play;
 - 5.2 better communicating the framework in ways that are accessible and empowering for children; and
 - 5.3 considering the possibility of adding to or amending some of the draft domains and focus areas;
- 6 **noted** that the wellbeing framework has been revised to reflect key aspects of feedback and the revised version, attached as Appendix B to the submission under SWC-18-SUB-0118, will be proactively tested through the formal public engagement process;
- 7 **noted** that for the purposes of public engagement, the working title "Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy" will be used to explicitly reflect the inclusion of young people, and to those young adults who have been in statutory care, with the final name to be used for the published Child Wellbeing Strategy to be determined by Ministers in early 2019 at the conclusion of public engagement;

Confirmation of the six areas of initial policy focus

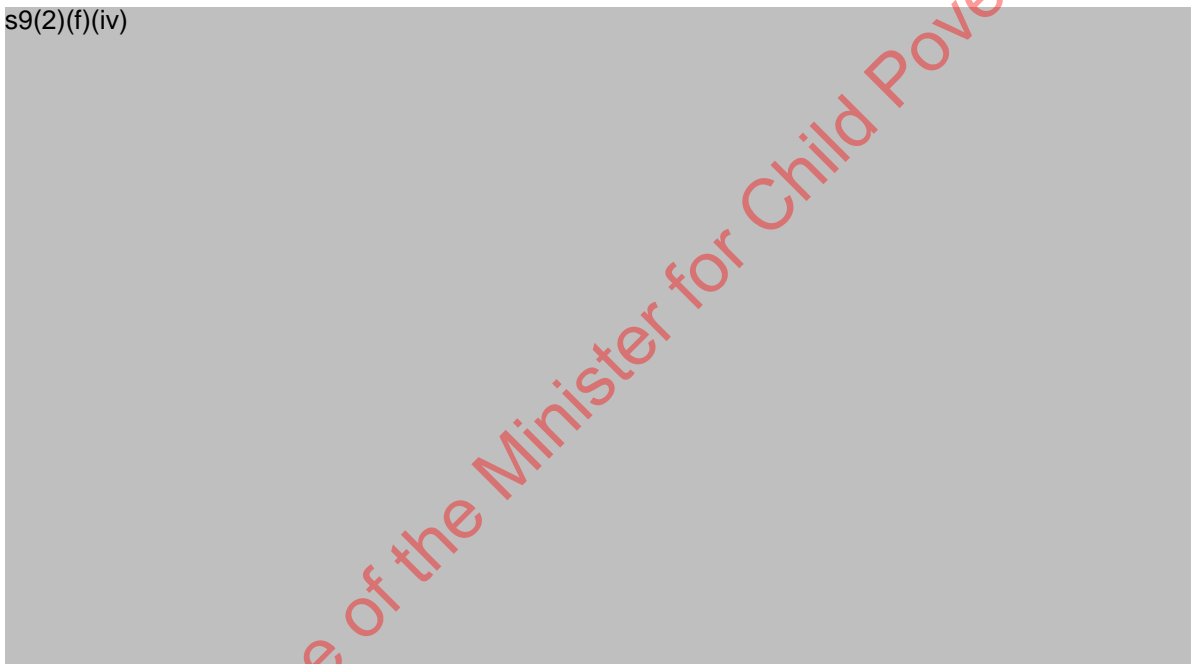
- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister for Social Development have agreed to lead or co-lead work on each of the six initial focus areas;
- 9 **noted** that officials from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Crown Māori Relations Unit are providing important support to the work to help ensure sufficient focus on whānau and tamariki Māori, good engagement with Māori in the development of the Child Wellbeing Strategy and to draw on insights from the review of Whānau Ora;
- 10 **noted** that early analysis, together with stakeholder feedback to date, indicates that the six initial focus areas identified for policy attention are appropriate;
- 11 **agreed** that officials continue to progress short-term policy work on the six initial focus areas to help inform the first Child Wellbeing Strategy s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 12 **agreed** that for the purposes of the first Child Wellbeing Strategy, short-term policy work on the remaining 10 focus areas focus on identifying current activity and, where necessary, amending or merging some of these focus areas as well as commissioning work to address critical gaps;

Medium-term work programme

- 13 **noted** that real and sustained change will be realised through a medium-term programme of work focused on systemic transformation;
- 14 **agreed** that officials continue to develop and refine the medium-term, cross-agency work signalled on the six initial focus areas;
- 15 **noted** that this medium-term work programme is likely to evolve to:
 - 15.1 include the other areas of focus in outyears; and
 - 15.2 build on insights from public engagement, new evidence and data and the findings from innovative community approaches;

Implications for Budget 2019

16 s9(2)(f)(iv)



Publication of the first Child Wellbeing Strategy

17 s9(2)(f)(iv)



Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Secretary's Note: This minute replaces SWC-18-MIN-0118. Cabinet added a new paragraph 16.3.

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Children