



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### 18-Month Review of the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan

**Portfolios**                      **Housing / Associate Housing (Homelessness)**

On 15 December 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the *Aotearoa/New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan Phase 1 (2020-2023)* was publicly released in February 2020, which set out immediate and longer-term actions across prevention, supply, support and system enablers;
- 2        **noted** that:
  - 2.1      the social and economic impact of COVID-19 has increased housing vulnerability, and that alongside continuing housing market pressures, there has been a significant increase in demand for emergency housing, and growth in the public housing register;
  - 2.2      despite these challenges, significant progress has been made in implementing the 18 immediate actions in the action plan, with 17 actions fully underway and the remaining action due to be implemented in early 2022;
- 3        **noted** that in July 2020, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the first national lockdown, Cabinet agreed to the prioritisation of seven longer-term actions which are also underway [SWC-20-MIN-0093];
- 4        **noted** that engagement for the 18-month review has been carried out with sector experts and homelessness sector services (Community Housing Aotearoa and Te Matapihi) on behalf of the wider sector, and this engagement has informed the prioritisation of work for the action plan in the next phase of implementation;
- 5        **noted** that the capacity to develop and implement longer-term actions will be heavily dependent upon the ongoing response to COVID-19, and that the capacity of both government and the sector is uncertain at this time;
- 6        **agreed** that the following further actions be prioritised in the next phase of implementation 2021-23:
  - 6.1      strengthening kaupapa Māori approaches to prevent and reduce Māori homelessness;
  - 6.2      delivery of housing supply;
  - 6.3      support for rangatahi experiencing, or at-risk of homelessness;

- 6.4 improving access to health, including mental health and addiction support for people experiencing homelessness;
- 6.5 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 7 **noted** that Housing Ministers will approve the 18-month review report for public release in early 2022, which will include information on prioritised focus areas alongside implementation reporting;
- 8 **noted** that progress on implementation of the action plan will continue to be publicly reported every six months;
- 9 **noted** that an evaluation of the first phase of the action plan will take place in 2022 and findings from the evaluation will inform the development of the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan phase two, from 2024 onwards.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

---

**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Marama Davidson

**Officials present from:**

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