



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Preventing and Reducing Homelessness in New Zealand

Portfolios **Housing / Social Development / Associate Housing (Public Housing)**

On 5 August 2019, following reference from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC), Cabinet:

Background

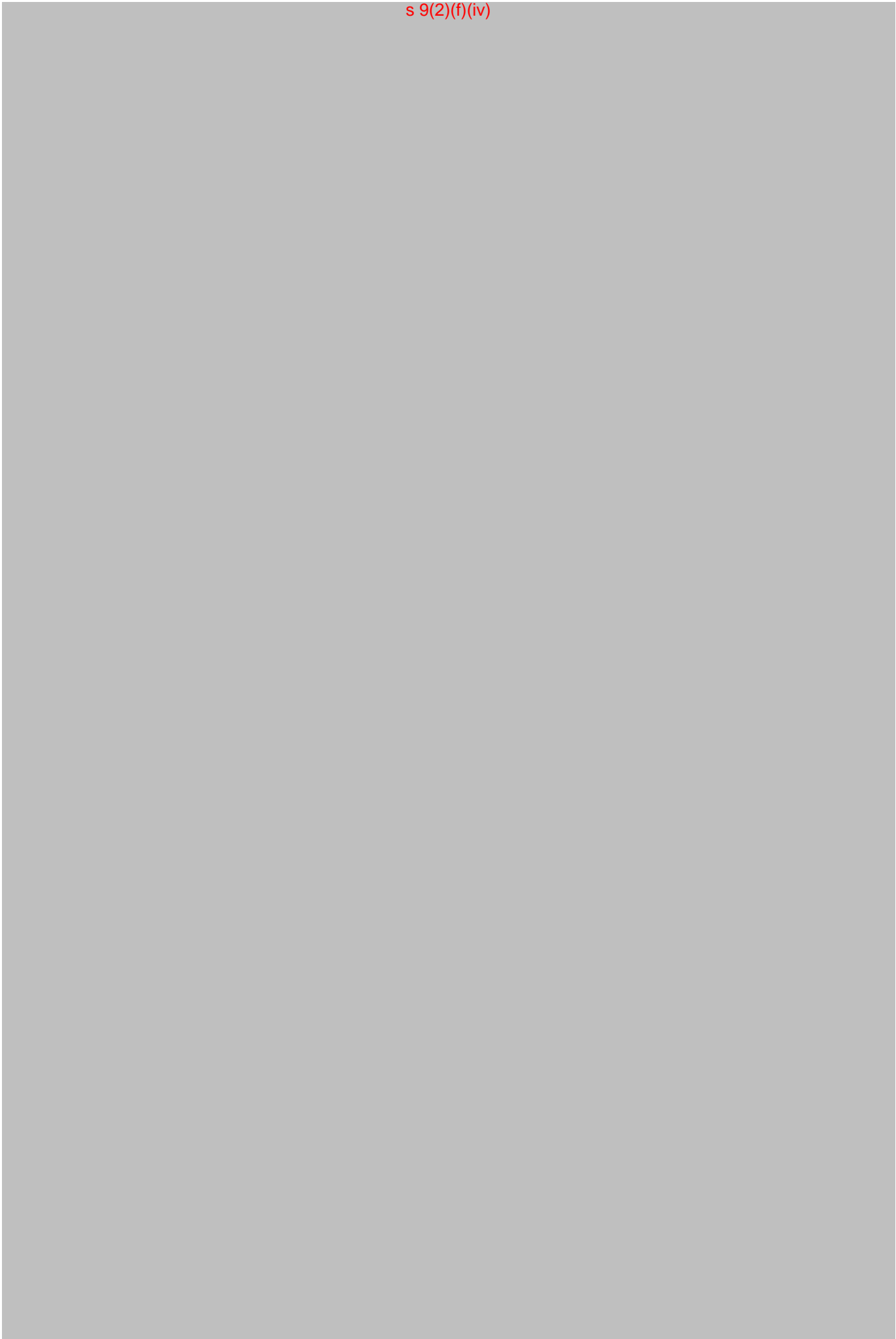
- 1 **noted** that homelessness is a growing issue across New Zealand with increasing demand for public housing and growing expenditure on emergency accommodation;
- 2 **noted** that six locations have been identified as areas of highest demand (hot spots): Northland, Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Napier/Hastings, and Wellington Region;
- 3 **noted** that the government provides and funds a range of responses to address homelessness including financial support, Housing First, Transitional Housing and public housing;
- 4 **noted** that the government is committed to doing more to prevent and respond to homelessness;

Overall package of responses

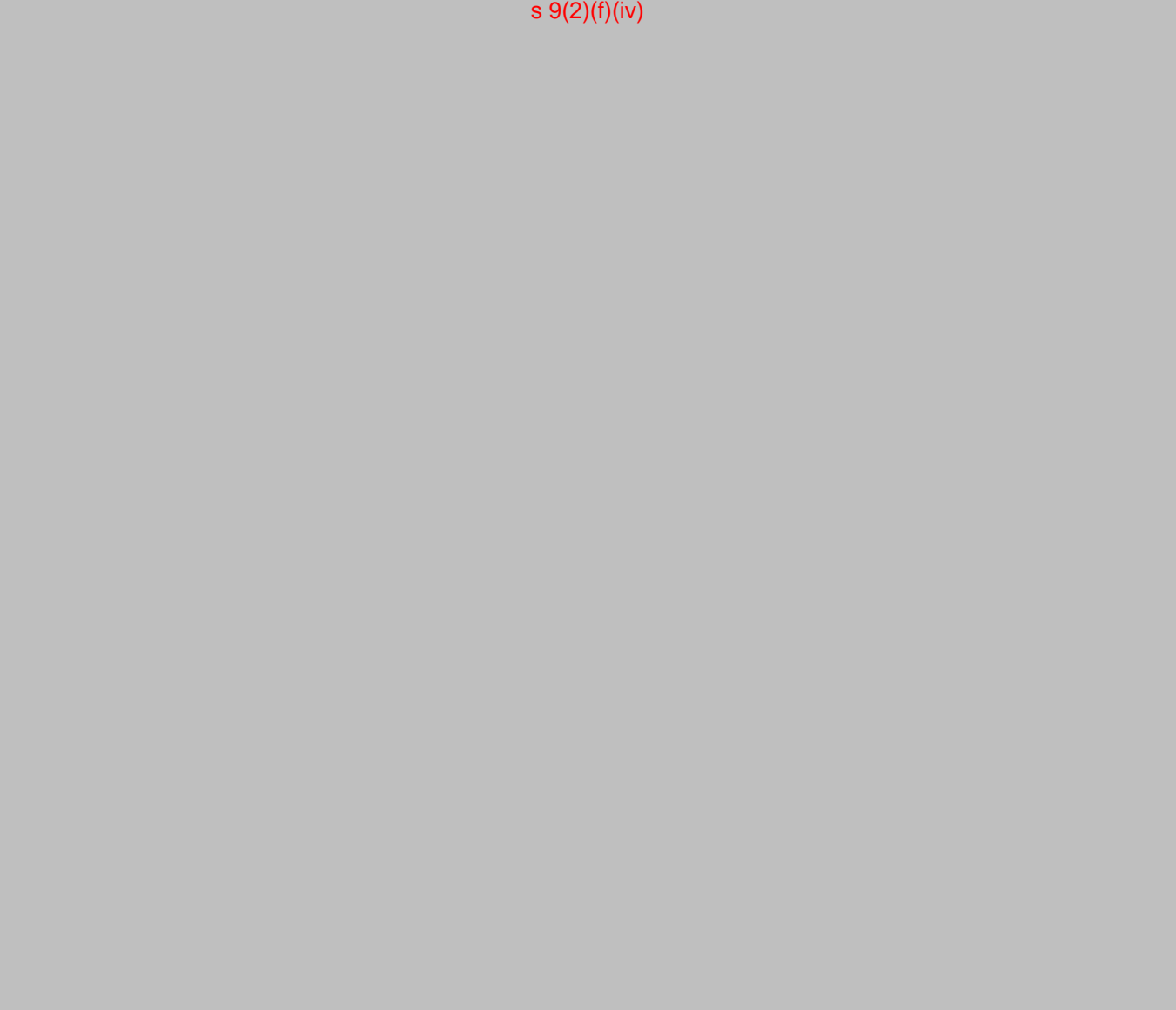
- 5 **agreed** to the overall vision: that homelessness is prevented where possible, or is rare, brief and non-recurring;
- 6 **agreed** to a strengthened approach to addressing homelessness that recognises the need for cross-government action in conjunction with iwi and Māori organisations, people with lived experience of homelessness, non-governmental organisations, and local authorities;
- 7 **agreed** that a balanced programme of responses with a greater focus on prevention alongside support, supply, and system enablers are developed in line with the above vision and approach;
- 8 **noted** that this is just the first step in the government's work to prevent and reduce homelessness in New Zealand and further decisions will be sought from Joint Ministers and where appropriate Cabinet, alongside regular updates on progress;

9 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



s 9(2)(f)(iv)

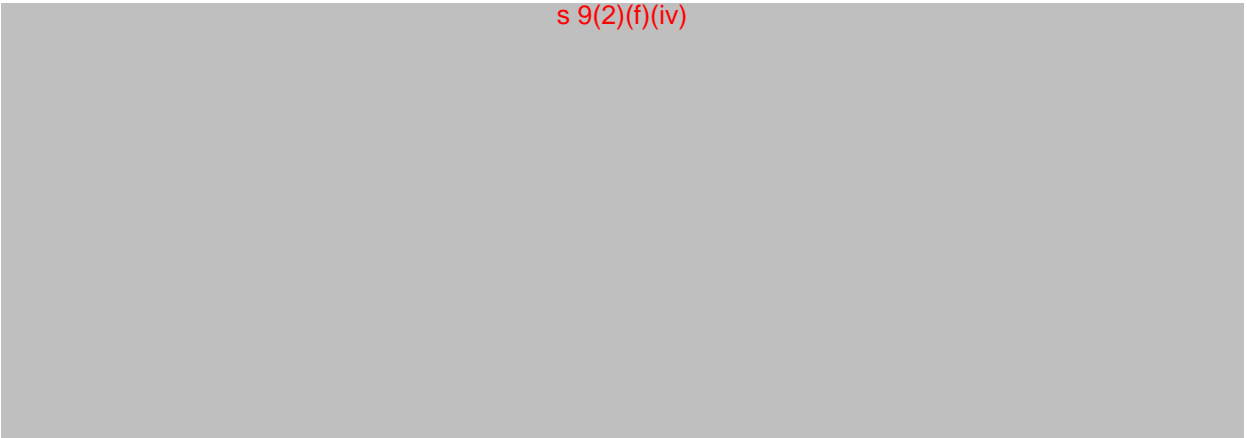


Prevention: Stopping homelessness happening in the first place

15 **agreed** to extend current Sustaining Tenancies contracts in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch until 30 June 2020, and include support for people in private rentals;

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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- 19 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the decision in paragraphs 15 and 16 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Housing and Urban Development Minister of Housing	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Public Housing MCA	3.30	3.30	-	-	-
Non-departmental Output Expense: Services for People in Need of or at risk of Needing Public Housing					
Total Operating	3.30	3.30	-	-	-

- 20 **agreed** to the Ministry of Social Development introducing intensive case management services and contracting navigators to support families, those with mental health needs and clients with a history of housing instability with complex needs who present in housing need;

- 21 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the decision in paragraph 20 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Social Development Minister of Housing	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Services to Support People to Access Accommodation (funded by revenue Crown)	6.80	8.16	8.16	8.16	-
Total Operating	6.80	8.16	8.16	8.16	-

Support: supporting people into stable accommodation and to access wider social support

- 22 **agreed** to the Ministry of Social Development contracting service providers to provide support services for all families and those with a known mental health need who are in emergency housing motels;

- 23 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the decision in paragraph 22 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Social Development Minister of Housing	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Services to Support People to Access Accommodation (funded by revenue Crown)	3.50	4.20	4.20	4.20	-
Total Operating	3.50	4.20	4.20	4.20	-

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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26 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2019/20 in paragraphs 19, 21 and 23 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Supply: increasing supply targeted at addressing homelessness and phasing out motel use

30 **agreed** that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development begin engagement with housing providers to understand what additional public housing and Transitional Housing supply (purchase/lease) is available in hot spot locations, and housing providers capacity to deliver it, and will provide advice to Joint Ministers in August 2019;

31 **noted** that of the 2,789 transitional housing places, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development contracts 66 motels nationally that are due to expire in October 2019 for use as supported transitional housing, with 787 places available to support up to 3,000 households per year;

32 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps

40 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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