



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Draft Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2022/23 – 2024/25: Release for Public Consultation

Portfolio Health

On 11 August 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that one in five New Zealanders experience harm from their own or someone else's gambling, and that Māori and Pacific people are more likely to experience harm;
- 2 **noted** that the Gambling Act 2003 prescribes components that an integrated problem gambling strategy focused on public health must include a formula to estimate problem gambling levy rates, matters for consultation, and a multi-stage consultation process;
- 3 **noted** that because the Gambling Act 2003 prescribes a lengthy consultation process to develop the integrated problem gambling strategy and problem gambling levy rates, the Ministry of Health intends to begin consultation on 23 August 2021 in order to meet the 1 July 2022 deadline for a new strategy and levy to be in place;
- 4 **noted** that the *Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2022/23 - 2024/25: Consultation Document* attached under SWC-21-SUB-0123 (the consultation document) meets the statutory requirements;
- 5 **noted** that the Ministry of Health will ensure that the consultation process includes targeted consultation with Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian groups and young people/rangatahi, as the groups most vulnerable to gambling harm;
- 6 **noted** that:
 - 6.1 the Ministry of Health has prepared a draft three-year service plan costing at \$67.374m, an increase of \$7.035 million on the 2019/20 - 2021/22 service plan budget;
 - 6.2 this includes a proposed transfer of \$5.602 million forecast underspend from the 2019/20 - 2021/22 service plan budget;
- 7 **noted** that the consultation document includes a range of possible weighting options for the proposed levy rates for each sector (non-casino gaming machines, casinos, TAB NZ and the New Zealand Lotteries Commission) and that the proposed levy rates and expected levy payments would be higher than they are currently under all weighting options;

- 8 **approved** the release of the consultation document for public consultation, subject to any minor editing and formatting changes;
- 9 **invited** the Minister of Health and Minister of Internal Affairs to report back to SWC by 30 April 2022, following the required consultation processes, to seek approval for the final Strategy, the Ministry of Health's appropriation and the problem gambling levy rates for 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

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 Willie Jackson
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 SWC Chair
Officials Committee for SWC