



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Medicines Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Health**

On 19 May 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-21-MIN-0172]:

- 1 **noted** that on 17 May 2021, Cabinet agreed to amend the Medicines Act 1981 to clarify and enable provisional consents in certain cases [CAB-21-MIN-0170];
- 2 **noted** that the Medicines Amendment Bill (the Bill) will amend section 23 of the Medicines Act 1981 to clarify the circumstances for granting provisional consent for medicines to be made by the Minister of Health:
 - 2.1 on a time limited basis;
 - 2.2 where Medsafe is satisfied on the basis of the data available the medicine is sufficiently more likely than not to be safe to use;
 - 2.3 where the benefits outweigh the risks;
 - 2.4 for conditions to be made relating to the product sponsor and/ or to any aspects of the consent; and
 - 2.5 in a manner that remains consistent with sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Medicines Act 1981;
- 3 **noted** that the Bill will validate a number of existing provisional consents that have been granted by Medsafe that have been made where a question may be raised as to whether they are intended to be sold to, supplied to or used by more than a limited number of patients, including the provisional consent of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine;
- 4 **approved** for introduction the Medicines Amendment Bill [PCO 23826/3.1];
- 5 **agreed** that the Bill:
 - 5.1 be introduced and passed through all stages on Wednesday 19 June 2021;
 - 5.2 will come into force on the day after Royal Assent.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson (part of item)
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the SWC Chair
Office of the Attorney-General
Crown Law
Officials Committee for SWC

PROACTIVELY RELEASED