



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.

Paying Family Members for Support Services

Portfolio Health

On 22 June 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Ministry of Health and district health boards current family care policies, approved by Cabinet in 2012 [SOC Min (12) 28/2], do not allow parents, spouses and resident family members to be paid to provide support services, except where those family members can provide *Home and Community Support Services* if that family is in a high or very high needs situation, or exceptional circumstances;
- 2 **noted** that from 1 July 2022, the family care policies will become the responsibility of the new Ministry for Disabled People and Health New Zealand respectively;
- 3 **noted** that the 2012 Cabinet decision which targets eligibility of the family care policy to those in high or very high needs situations, or exceptional circumstances only does not align with human rights law;
- 4 **agreed** to a new family care policy where family members providing care (including parents, spouses and resident family members) for people with low, medium, high, and very high needs, can be paid for support services;
- 5 **noted** that the new family care policy will also document the circumstances where it would not be appropriate for a family member (or anyone else) to provide support services, including where:
 - 5.1 it would be contrary to the purpose of the support or would not achieve the individual's goals/support plan;
 - 5.2 the carer is under 16 years of age;
 - 5.3 it would cause harm, either to the person being cared for or the carer;
 - 5.4 it is necessary when prioritising resources;

- 6 **noted** that allowing payment to family members of those with low to moderate needs for support services is likely to:
- 6.1 s 9(2)(h)
 - 6.2 increase costs for Ministry and district health board-funded support services by a combined total of \$15-49 million per year, recognising that family members may seek to be paid for care they have previously provided without payment;
 - 6.3 more appropriately recognise and value family, whānau and āiga carers who have been a large, unpaid workforce;
 - 6.4 provide disabled people, families, whānau and āiga with greater choice and control, consistent with Enabling Good Lives principles;
- 7 **noted** that Budget 2022 allocated \$111 million over four years for paid family care support in Vote Health (\$72 million) which will be delivered by Health New Zealand and Vote Social Development (\$39 million) which will be delivered by the new Ministry for Disabled People, to meet the costs of the above policy change;
- 8 **noted** that the Ministry of Health undertook targeted consultation with disability and carer community groups who supported the idea of allowing payment to family members of those with low to moderate needs for support services;
- 9 **noted** that the Ministry of Health and district health boards' family care policy s 9(2)(h) which can be resolved operationally, including allowing for:
- 9.1 parents or spouses to provide support services;
 - 9.2 family members to be paid for support services beyond *Home and Community Support Services*;
- 10 **noted** that the new family care policy will be implemented after 1 July 2022 by Health New Zealand and the Ministry for Disabled People.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Aupito Williams Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

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