

Briefing for information

Cabinet paper for lodging: Puberty blockers for young people with gender incongruence and dysphoria

Date due to MO: 29 July 2025	Action required by: 31 July 2025
Security level: SENSITIVE	Reference: H2025070577
To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health	

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Steve Barnes	Associate Deputy Director-General, Strategy and Policy	9(2)(a)
Joe Bourne	Chief Medical Officer	9(2)(a)

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |

Comment:

Cabinet paper for lodging: Puberty blockers for young people with gender incongruence and dysphoria

Security level: SENSITIVE **Date:** 29 July 2025

To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Proactive release

This briefing is not planned to be proactively released. Consideration of any release will be deferred until decisions have been announced.

Purpose of report

1. This Briefing provides a final Cabinet paper for approval for lodging, with Ministry comments on matters raised in departmental consultation. Talking points are provided as Appendix One to support Cabinet discussions.

Background

2. Following consultation on the use of puberty blockers for young people with gender incongruence/dysphoria, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) provided you with a briefing on the consultation outcomes [H2025063383] and advice on the policy options available [H2025063205].
3. You requested the Ministry prepare a paper to take to Cabinet for discussion of options developed from that advice.
4. Your office circulated a draft paper for Ministerial consultation for feedback. Departmental consultation started subsequently under strictly confidential conditions.
5. The Ministry has finalised the Cabinet paper with four options available for Cabinet consideration.
6. Lodging for the Monday 4 August 2025 Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) meeting is required by 10am on Thursday 31 July 2025. Officials can upload the documents for lodging as soon as your office notifies us that you have approved the final paper.

Matters raised in consultation

9(2)(h)

7.

8.

- 9. 9(2)(h)
- 10. 9(2)(h)

Equity

- 11. Effects on equity of health outcomes and health service access are discussed in the attached Cabinet paper and in Appendix Five, Regulatory Impact Statement.

Next steps

- 12. Officials are on standby to upload the Cabinet paper and appendices for lodging as soon as your office confirms you have approved the paper.
- 13. Once Cabinet decisions have been made, the Ministry will proceed with implementation and provide communications material to support any planned announcements.
- 14. Dr Joe Bourne, Chief Medical Officer, and Steve Barnes, Associate Deputy Director-General, Strategy and Policy, are available to support you at CBC if required.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- a) **Approve** the attached Cabinet paper for lodgement **Yes/No**
- b) **Note** that talking points for Cabinet discussion are attached as Appendix One **Yes/No**



Steve Barnes
Associate Deputy Director-General
Strategy and Policy
Date:

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health
Date:

ENDS.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED