



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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School of Rural Medicine: An Alternative Approach

Portfolios

Education / Health

On 12 November 2018, following reference from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that there is a shortage of doctors and other health professionals in rural areas, which results in decreased access to medical care in rural areas;
- 2 **noted** that improving access to health services for rural communities will require multiple solutions;
- 3 **noted** that the establishment of a School of Rural Medicine would only address some of the issues;
- 4 **noted** that in September 2017, the previous government agreed in principle to establish a School of Rural Medicine [CAB-17-MIN-0464];
- 5 **rescinded** the decision referred to in paragraph 4 above;
- 6 **invited** the Minister of Health to report to SWC in early 2019 with an update on short-term actions, and more detail on the proposed actions and solutions to address the maldistribution of health professionals in rural areas and improve access to health services in these areas.

Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Secretary's Note: *This minute replaces SWC-18-IN-0159. Cabinet agreed to the recommendation from SWC to rescind an earlier Cabinet decision (paragraph 4).*

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Prime Minister
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Minister of Health