



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Independent Panel Reviewing Pharmac: Release of Interim Report

Portfolio                      Health

On 17 November 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1        **noted** that in March 2021, SWC noted the Minister of Health's intention to establish a ministerial committee under section 11 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to undertake a review of Pharmac (the Review) and agreed that an interim report be provided to the Minister of Health by 20 August 2021 with a final report due by 10 December 2021 [SWC-21-MIN-0006];
- 2        **noted** the purpose of the Review was to ensure the public can have confidence in Pharmac and its role in the wider health system;
- 3        **noted** that the Review's terms of reference encapsulated two issues;
  - 3.1      how well Pharmac performs against its current objectives and whether and how its performance against these could be improved;
  - 3.2      whether Pharmac's current objectives maximise its potential to improve health outcomes for all New Zealanders (with a particular emphasis on equity for Māori and Pacific peoples) as part of the wider health and disability system, and whether and how these should be changed;
- 4        **noted** the Minister of Health's intention to publicly release the Interim Report from the independent panel reviewing Pharmac (the panel) attached under SWC-21-SUB-0180;
- 5        **noted** that minor technical and editorial amendments and design work may be made to the Interim Report prior to its public release;
- 6        **noted** that the Chair of the panel will respond to stakeholder and media queries generated by the release of the Interim Report;
- 7        **noted** that the panel will now deliver its final report to the Minister of Health by 28 February 2022;

- 8 **invited** the Minister of Health to report back to SWC as soon as practicable after receiving the panel's final report.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Kiri Allan  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

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

PROACTIVELY RELEASED