



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Response to the Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction

Portfolio                      Health

On 6 May 2019, following reference from the Cabinet Business Committee, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that *He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction (He Ara Oranga)* sets out a future vision of mental health and wellbeing for all;
- 2        **agreed** to the vision that:
  - 2.1      all New Zealanders will have more options for accessing the support they need, when and where they need it;
  - 2.2      responses are designed in partnership with Māori, people with lived experience, Pacific peoples, children and young people, communities and whānau;
  - 2.3      the future approach delivers for Māori and is grounded in a commitment to equity of outcomes;
- 3        **approved**, subject to paragraph 4 below, the government response to *He Ara Oranga*, which accepts, accepts 'in principle', or agrees to further consideration of 38 of the 40 recommendations (as set out in Appendix One to the paper under CAB-19-SUB-0182);
- 4        **agreed** to not accept recommendation 31 to set a target of a 20 percent reduction in suicide rates by 2030, but **noted** that the overall strategy of the government is to reduce suicide;
- 5        **noted** that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published its report *Mental Health and Work: Aotearoa / New Zealand*, which includes 20 recommendations for improving labour market outcomes for New Zealanders with mental health conditions, on 13 December 2018;
- 6        **approved** the response to *Mental Health and Work: Aotearoa / New Zealand*, which accepts, accepts 'in principle', or agrees to further consideration of 18 of the 20 recommendations (as set out in Appendix Two to the paper under CAB-19-SUB-0182);
- 7        **authorised** the Minister of Health to make minor technical and editorial changes to Appendix One and Appendix Two prior to their public release;

- 8 **noted** that Cabinet has invited the Minister of Health to report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee in June 2019 on the following areas [CAB-18-MIN-0621]:
- 8.1 Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, as a joint report-back with the Minister of State Services;
- 8.2 Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister of Health will report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee by 31 July 2019, to enable additional stakeholder engagement to inform the draft suicide prevention strategy and plan;
- 10 **noted** that Budget 2019 investment will demonstrate the government's commitment to prioritise mental wellbeing and lay the foundations for a transformed whole-of-government wellbeing approach;
- 11 **noted** that responding to all recommendations will not be possible in Budget 2019 alone, **s 9(2)(f)(iv)**
- 12 **invited** the Minister of Health to report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee in late 2019 with an implementation pathway that will inform future Budget investment;
- 13 **noted** that the development of the longer-term implementation plan will be undertaken in partnership with Māori, people with lived experience, Pacific peoples and other stakeholders;
- 14 **directed** the Ministry of Health and other agencies to work together to develop the longer-term implementation pathway **s 9(2)(f)(iv)**
- 15 **directed** the Social Wellbeing Board to oversee the cross-agency coordination of the government's response to the Inquiry and the collective approach to longer-term action on mental health and addiction.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health