



Cabinet

CAB Min (12) 33/13

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Minute of Decision

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Response to Paid Family Carers Case: Consultation on Policy Options

Portfolio: Health

On 17 September 2012, following reference from the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in July 2012, Cabinet agreed that, if the timeframe for lifting the Suspension Order allows, the Ministry of Health (MoH) will consult with the disability and carers communities on how the government might respond to the issues raised by the Family Carers case [CAB Min (12) 25/13];
- 2 *{redacted under Official Information Act 1982 Section 9(2)(g)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege}*
- 3 **noted** that the consultation paper focuses on the discrimination against family carers that arises within home and community support funded by MoH as a result of not paying parents and resident family members;
- 4 **noted** the following range of approaches for responding to the Family Carers case that are included in the consultation document:
 - 4.1 targeting eligibility for payment, for example to people with very high needs;
 - 4.2 paying allowances that are lower than wages;
 - 4.3 only paying family carers when the support provided is above an amount that family carers are expected to provide;
 - 4.4 capping the number of hours per week that family carers can be paid;
 - 4.5 allowing family carers to be paid (but making no other policy changes);
 - 4.6 a flat-rate or broadly-tiered carers allowance;
- 5 **noted** that policy options may combine one or more of the approaches to responding to the Family Carers case that are included in the consultation document;
- 6 **noted** that further work is required to refine and peer review the costings that are set out in the paper under CAB (12) 501;

- 7 **agreed** to the release of the consultation document attached to the paper under CAB (12) 501, entitled *Consultation on Paying Family Carers to Provide Disability Support*, as the basis for a public consultation process on the options for paying family carers;
- 8 **noted** that minor editorial changes may be made to the consultation document prior to its release;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister of Health (the Minister) intends to release the consultation document on 19 September 2012, with submissions due to close on 6 November 2012;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister may decide to appoint a representative to chair the consultation meetings, and will advise Cabinet on this in due course;
- 11 *{redacted under Official Information Act 1982 Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect confidentiality of advice between Ministers of the Crown and officials}*
- 12 **invited** the Minister to report to SOC in December 2012 with recommendations on a preferred approach for responding to the Family Carers case.

Reference: CAB (12) 501
