

**Hon Julie Anne Genter  
Minister for Women**

**Cabinet paper – proactive release**

**Proposed Overseas Travel – attendance at 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations  
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63), 9 to 16 March 2019**

Date of release: 11 April 2019

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***Cabinet Paper - details***

Date: 25 February 2019  
Title: Proposed Overseas Travel  
Author: Ministry for Women

Chair  
CABINET

### Proposed Overseas Travel

#### Proposal

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New York, the United States, to attend the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) from 9 March until 16 March 2019.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

#### Purpose of Travel

- 3 In New York, I will lead the New Zealand Official Delegation (the Delegation) to CSW 63.

### The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

- 4 The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global policy-making body dedicated to gender equality and the advancement of women. Every year representatives of member states and observers gather at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.
- 5 The annual CSW session is the second largest event on the UN calendar. This year's theme is 'Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'. This aligns with the Government's priorities for wellbeing and is relevant to my priority areas of work, as Minister for Women. The theme also aligns well with the Government's transport priorities around sustainable transport infrastructure and better diversity in the design and planning of liveable towns and cities.
- 6 New Zealand's reputation on gender equality is strong internationally. International organisations and countries continue to seek New Zealand's advice on improving gender equality. I want to ensure that New Zealand remains visible, active, and participatory – at the highest level – in international fora on women's issues. My attendance will further ensure that New Zealand's domestic policy development is informed by international best practice.
- 7 It will also be an opportunity to engage with our Pacific neighbours, in support of the Government's Pacific reset, as I intend to arrange meetings with my colleagues from the Pacific Island Forum Group.

#### My role in the delegation

- 8 On behalf of the New Zealand Government I will deliver New Zealand's National Statement and meet with delegates from other UN member states to discuss matters relating to my Women portfolio. Specifically, I will share

good practice in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment as they relate to the CSW 63 priority theme. It includes the Pay Equity Joint Working Group, the Joint Venture on family violence, sexual violence and whanau violence and this Government's wellbeing approach to governing. I will also discuss how we are enabling sustainable transport infrastructure in New Zealand and how we are promoting better diversity in the design and planning of liveable towns and cities.

- 9 I will participate in side events, bilateral meetings with heads of delegations, roundtable discussions, panel discussions and will host a breakfast for New Zealand NGO delegates as well as for Pacific Leaders Forum Heads of Delegation at New Zealand's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

#### **Ministerial Party**

- 10 The official government delegation has been approved by Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt Hon Winston Peters. I propose to be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor (Women) Tara Forde.
- 11 The proposed delegation will further comprise senior officials from the Ministry for Women, including the Ministry for Women's Chief Executive, the Ministry of Transport, and a non-government representative. Their costs will be met by Vote Women and Vote Transport.

#### **Travel arrangements**

- 12 The cost of the trip is estimated as follows:

Air travel	\$31,000.00
Hotel/Meals	\$5,920.00
Transport	\$200.00
Miscellaneous costs	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$180.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,800.00</b>

- 13 I intend to bring my baby on the trip given his very young age. My mother will accompany us from Los Angeles onwards and throughout the duration of CSW to care for him, enabling me to balance parenting and full participation in the work programme. I will meet all their travel costs and expenses personally.

#### **Acting Ministers**

- 14 In my absence, I propose that Hon Eugenie Sage act as Minister for Women from 9 March 2019 until 16 March 2019.

#### **Proactive release**

- 15 I propose to proactively release the paper in its entirety within 30 business days.

## Recommendations

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from Saturday 9 to Saturday 16 March 2019 to travel to the United States (New York) to attend the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and meet with significant stakeholders relevant to the Women portfolio
- 2 **agree** that I will be accompanied by one member of staff from my office and officials from the Ministry for Women and the Ministry of Transport, as well as a non-government representative
- 3 **approve** the expenditure of \$38,800.00 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Ministerial Services (Ministers' Internal and External Travel)
- 4 **note** that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry for Women and the Ministry of Transport, whose travel costs will be a charge to Vote: Women and Vote Transport.
- 5 **agree** that in my absence, Hon Eugenie Sage act as Minister for Women from 9 March 2019 until 16 March 2019.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Julie Anne Genter  
Minister for Women