



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Improving Women's Wellbeing and Employment Outcomes in Response to COVID-19

Portfolio                      Women

On 27 October 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

#### Background

1            **noted** that in April 2021, Cabinet:

- 1.1        noted that women are experiencing disproportionate economic and social impacts of COVID-19;
- 1.2        invited the Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Women to report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) by 31 October 2021 on progress towards data collection on gender across employment and training initiatives and the development of a Women's Employment Action Plan;
- 1.3        invited the Minister for Women, working with responsible Ministers to report back to SWC on progress towards addressing a social impact of COVID -19 on women and whether a 'National Action Plan for Women' is required;

[CAB-21-MIN-0113]

#### Women's Employment Action Plan

- 2            **agreed** that the Ministry for Women focus on actions to enhance employment outcomes for women, in particular women who experience negative outcomes in the labour market;
- 3            **agreed** that targeted engagement on the Women's Employment Action Plan commence in November 2021, and will be led by the National Advisory Council for the Employment of Women (NACEW), together with its partner agencies and support from the Ministry for Women;
- 4            **agreed** that, once actions are confirmed, financial and resourcing implications as a result of each action will need to be determined in collaboration with relevant agencies;

5

[REDACTED]

- 6 **agreed** that following the release of the Women’s Employment Action Plan, a framework for monitoring implementation progress be developed, including indicators to assess labour market outcomes for women, in conjunction with relevant agencies;

### **Gendered data collection across employment and training initiatives**

- 7 **agreed** to continued collection and strengthening of data and reporting on the participation of all groups of women across the Employment, Education, and Training initiatives, and more generally across existing and new employment programmes;

### **Social impact of COVID-19 on women**

- 8 **noted** that the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Joint Venture on the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence have provided reports on progress towards addressing the social impact of COVID- 19 on women;
- 9 **noted** that in September 2021, the COVID-19 Ministerial Group agreed to reinstate the \$2.0 million COVID-19 Community Fund, to be administered by the Ministry for Women to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on women;

### **Next steps**

- 10 **invited** the Minister for Women to report back to SWC in mid-2022 with a proposed approach for setting the direction and aligning prioritisation for women in programmes, initiatives, and policy across government.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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#### **Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

#### **Officials present from:**

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