



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Family Violence and Sexual Violence: Action Plan in Response to COVID-19

Portfolio Justice

On 8 April 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee, in accordance with the Power to Act authorised by Cabinet [CAB-20-MIN-0145]:

- 1 **noted** that the evidence indicates there is likely to be an escalation in family violence and sexual violence episodes during the COVID-19 pandemic response period, and there are potential barriers to people reporting episodes to authorities and accessing the support they need;
- 2 **noted** that the Joint Venture on Family Violence and Sexual Violence (the Joint Venture) is leading the government's response to family violence and sexual violence as part of the overall COVID-19 response;
- 3 **noted** that intelligence from agencies and the sector suggests government could increase the focus on prevention and early intervention for family violence and sexual violence while also providing direct support during the crisis and immediately afterwards;

s9(2)(i)

- 5 **noted** that the Department of Corrections has already committed to funding current community programme providers to enable them to continue supporting people that are serving sentences for harmful sexual behaviour against children and for family violence;
- 6 **noted** that to ensure that essential services continue and can respond to increased demand as a consequence of COVID-19, the Ministry of Social Development is providing:
 - 6.1 up to \$12 million to strengthen existing family violence and sexual violence services delivered by NGOs so they can continue to support individuals, families, whānau and communities at risk through uncertain circumstances and respond to increased demand;
 - 6.2 up to \$3.5 million to support Māori and Pacific Communities through its Etū Whānau and Pacific Proud networks;

- 7 **directed** the Joint Venture to prioritise the following six actions to minimise the impact of family violence and sexual violence during the pandemic response period:
- 7.1 undertaking a family violence and sexual violence prevention campaign as part of COVID-19 messaging, with targeted information to audiences (Māori, Pacific, parents, children and young people, seniors and disabled people) to promote services, discuss healthy and safe relationships, encourage help-seeking and help-giving, and with the support of community led campaigns;
 - 7.2 providing family violence and sexual violence guidance and resources to the front-line emergency workforce, to complement the COVID-19 response;
 - 7.3 connecting the family violence and sexual violence response with essential services currently operating;
 - 7.4 resourcing family violence and sexual violence crisis intervention agencies, including NGOs and kaupapa Māori providers, to do outreach for vulnerable families in relation to family violence and sexual violence, which may involve access to the necessary equipment, workforce capability and guidance;
 - 7.5 developing an essential needs pack for people who experience violence (e.g. food, clothing, phone and data, and resources for children and young people);
 - 7.6 coordinating nationally and locally to plan for emergency accommodation in relation to family violence and sexual violence episodes;
- 8 **authorised** the Minister for Social Development, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence Issues) to make minor amendments to the paper under CBC-20-SUB-0032 to reflect discussion at the meeting.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Ron Mark
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon James Shaw
Hon Julie Anne Genter
Jan Logie, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Treasury