



Cabinet Social Policy Committee

SOC Min (14) 9/7

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Minute of Decision

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Promotion and Maintenance of New Zealand Sign Language

Portfolio: Disability Issues

On 21 May 2014, the Cabinet Social Policy Committee:

New Zealand Human Rights Commission's inquiry

- 1 **noted** that the New Zealand Human Rights Commission's (the Commission) inquiry entitled *A new era in the right to sign* identified that deaf people continue to experience barriers when using New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL), and that these barriers impact on their quality of life and their ability to participate in society;
- 2 **noted** that in response to the recommendation from the Commission inquiry's report, the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) established an expert advisory group to provide advice on establishing a permanent mechanism for the promotion and maintenance of NZSL and priorities for a work programme;

Advice of the expert advisory group

- 3 **noted** that the expert advisory group recommended:
 - 3.1 establishing an advisory board to promote and maintain NZSL;
 - 3.2 progressing five initial priorities for the promotion and maintenance of NZSL, which are as follows:
 - 3.2.1 promoting NZSL in education;
 - 3.2.2 including NZSL in the home;
 - 3.2.3 providing access to information and services;
 - 3.2.4 providing access for deaf Maori;
 - 3.2.5 developing interpreter standards;
 - 3.3 establishing a NZSL Fund to fund community initiatives that promote and maintain NZSL;

Establishing an advisory board

- 4 **agreed** to establish an advisory board with responsibility to:
 - 4.1 promote and maintain NZSL;
 - 4.2 progress priorities for NZSL;
 - 4.3 support community initiatives for NZSL;
- 5 **agreed** that the advisory board be supported by a secretariat in the Ministry of Social Development (MSD);
- 6 **noted** that the Minister for Disability Issues (the Minister) will report to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee in December 2014 with appointments to the advisory board;
- 7 **noted** that draft Terms of Reference for the advisory board have been prepared and will be approved by the Minister;

Progress priorities for New Zealand Sign Language

- 8 **agreed** to the advisory board developing and co-ordinating the implementation of a three year action plan across government departments;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister will take the three year action plan to progress initiatives for NZSL to the Ministerial Committee for Disability Issues for approval;
- 10 **directed** the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and MSD, whose core business includes services for NZSL users (and any other government agency involved in the three year action plan), to report to the advisory board annually on initiatives related to the NZSL action plan and work programme;
- 11 **agreed** that the advisory board report to the Minister on progress against the priorities for NZSL, and review the priorities as needed;

Establish a New Zealand Sign Language Fund

- 12 **agreed** to establish a NZSL Fund for funding projects to promote and maintain NZSL;
- 13 **agreed** that the Minister approve the policy and criteria for funding initiatives annually;
- 14 **agreed** that the advisory board will consider proposals and provide recommendations on which proposals to fund;
- 15 **agreed** that the ODI will make final decisions on the allocation of available funds based on the advice of the advisory board;

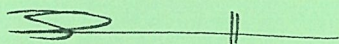
Funding

- 16 **noted** that \$1.5 million was approved annually in Budget 2014 for the promotion and maintenance of NZSL [CAB Min (14) 13/8(30)], with the following impact:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 and outyears
Vote Social Development				
Operating Balance Impact	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-
Total	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500

Next steps

- 17 **agreed** that the ODI begin seeking nominations for the advisory board;
- 18 **directed** MSD to complete a review of the effectiveness of the advisory board by December 2017.



Saphron Powell
Committee Secretary

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Present:

Hon Steven Joyce
Hon Judith Collins
Hon Tony Ryall (Chair)
Hon Hekia Parata
Hon Christopher Finlayson
Hon Paula Bennett
Hon Anne Tolley
Hon Chester Borrows
Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga
Hon Dr Pita Sharples
Hon Tariana Turia
Hon Peter Dunne

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Social Policy Committee

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State Services Commissioner
Chief Executive, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
Chief Executive, Te Puni Kokiri
Chief Executive, MSD (Disability Issues)
Controller and Auditor-General

