



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Carmel Sepuloni	Portfolio	Social Development and Employment
Title of Cabinet paper	Employment Strategy Report Back: Six-Monthly Update	Date to be published	5 May 2021

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
17 March 2021	Employment Strategy Report Back: Six-Monthly Update	Office of the Minister for Social Development and Employment
17 March 2021	Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute of Decision: Employment Strategy: Six-Monthly Report Back SWC-21-MIN-0022	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Employment Strategy: Six-Monthly Report Back

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 17 March 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in August 2019, Cabinet:
 - 1.1 approved the Employment Strategy and Youth Employment Action Plan;
 - 1.2 agreed that the Minister of Employment will provide overarching stewardship of the Employment Strategy;
 - 1.3 invited the Minister of Employment to report to SWC at six-monthly intervals on the progress;

[CAB-19-MIN-0385];
- 2 **noted** that COVID-19 has had a significant effect on the New Zealand labour market and that the impacts of COVID-19 are expected to have a disproportionately negative impact on population groups that have historically experienced persistently poor labour market outcomes;
- 3 **noted** that the long-term objectives of the Employment Strategy are:
 - 3.1 building a skilled workforce that meets business needs
 - 3.2 supporting the regions and industries to be successful
 - 3.3 ensuring workplaces are modern and provide decent work
 - 3.4 investing in resilience and adaptability to respond to the changing nature of work
 - 3.5 creating a more inclusive labour market;
- 4 **noted** that the long-term objectives of the Employment Strategy in paragraph 3 above continue to provide a sound framework for its action plans, however COVID-19 means that the action plans take on greater importance, and will require new shifts in emphasis;
- 5 **noted** that there is scope to further examine how the Strategy is and will continue to work towards achieving the government's objectives for the labour market in a COVID-19 environment;

- 6 **agreed** that employment action plans should address all five objectives of the Employment Strategy noted in paragraph 3 above;
- 7 **noted** that the Ministerial leads for the six action plans are:
- 7.1 Youth Employment Action Plan (Minister for Social Development and Employment);
 - 7.2 *Working Matters* Disability Employment Action Plan (Minister for Social Development and Employment and Disability Issues);
 - 7.3 Māori Employment Action Plan (Minister for Social Development and Employment);
 - 7.4 Pacific Employment Action Plan (Minister for Pacific Peoples);
 - 7.5 Refugees, Recent Migrants and Ethnic Communities Employment Action Plan (Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities);
 - 7.6 Older Workers Employment Action Plan (Minister for Seniors);
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment has invited Ministers responsible for the above action plans to consider how they will:
- 8.1 include actions targeted towards supporting women in the labour market in the current suite of action plans
 - 8.2 continue to monitor and evaluate the plans as they are developed, providing insight into their progress and effectiveness of their actions;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Women have agreed that the Ministry for Women should lead development of a standalone employment action plan for women focusing on cross-system issues and medium-to-long term actions;
- 10 **noted** that the next six-monthly report back will include an update on:
- 10.1 the inclusion of women in the Employment Strategy and action plans;
 - 10.2 the progress of the monitoring and evaluation of the action plans;
- 11 **noted** the progress updates on the two published employment action plans for youth and disabled people, attached as Annex One under SWC-21-SUB-0022.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Peeni Henare
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 Chair
Officials Committee for SWC