



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Ginny Andersen	Portfolio	Small Business
Title of Cabinet paper	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ginny Andersen	Date to be published	29 September 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
September 2023	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ginny Andersen	Office of the Minister for Small Business
4 September 2023	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ginny Andersen CAB-23-MIN-0426 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Small Business

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ginny Andersen

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Paris, France from 24 June 2023 to 30 June 2023 to Chair the first meeting of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship.

Report

- 1 The primary purpose of the trip was to chair the Committee on Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) inaugural meeting. The theme for the meeting was “Managing Shocks and Transitions: Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies”.
- 2 On 26 June I attended the Business at the OECD Stakeholder Dialogue on Future-Proofing SMEs and Entrepreneurship. This included meeting with Secretary-General Mathias Cormann and DSG Yoshiki Takeuchi, both of whom expressed appreciation for New Zealand’s leadership of the subject at the OECD and the meeting itself.
- 3 A stakeholder meeting was also hosted on 26 June by Business at the OECD (BIAC). It was an important support event for the Ministerial as it brought together small businesses from several countries, large firms providing services to small business, business organisations, policy officials and Ministers. New Zealand’s Maia Royal (Pure Foods) was one of the panellists in a session on the wellbeing of SMEs and entrepreneurs, focusing on how governments can support small businesses and enhance their resilience.
- 4 I chaired the first meeting of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship at Ministerial level, in Paris on 27-28 June 2023. Given the importance of digital issues for SMEs, the meeting also had relevance for my Digital Economy and Communications portfolio.
- 5 The Ministerial went smoothly and represents the culmination of strong engagement by New Zealand on SME issues over the past five years.
- 6 Key discussion topics were the benefits to SMEs from improving access to finance, supporting the green and digital transitions, mental health and wellbeing of small business owners, and boosting trade and investment. A dinner hosted by France allowed me to emphasise Aotearoa New Zealand's focus on mental health and wellbeing for SMEs and their employees.

- 7 Bilateral meetings with Ireland, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, the United States, United Kingdom and Switzerland on the side-lines of the Ministerial were productive and enabled me to dig into more detail with my Ministerial Colleagues, particularly on access to finance, the digital transition, and mental health.
- 8 I closed the Ministerial with the proverb, “Ahakoa, he iti he pounamu” (although it is small it is of great value), in reference to the importance of small business to our economies and observed how useful it had been to meet in-person, creating connections and friendships to progress this work.
- 9 I outlined the key points in the ‘Declaration on Enhancing SMEs and Entrepreneurship Policies for Greater Resilience and Successful Green and Digital Transitions’ which was then approved by OECD Members (and some non-Members) and the meeting concluded.
- 10 The Recommendation on SME Financing, formally agreed at the 2023 Ministerial Council Meeting in early June, was also launched at the CSME Ministerial, as was the latest SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook, a flagship report for the OECD.

Proactive release

- 11 I intend to proactively release the paper, subject to redactions as appropriate and consistent with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ginny Andersen

Minister for Small Business