

AIDE MEMOIRE

To: Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

From: Claire Douglas, Deputy-Secretary, Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers

CC: Andy Jackson, Group Manager, Tertiary Education

Date: 20 November 2017

Subject: Urgent oral item at Cabinet: Authority for Ministers to finalise the delivery mechanism for fees-free tertiary education

Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides you with speaking points to seek Cabinet's agreement for:
 - joint Ministers to determine the delivery mechanism for fees-free tertiary education in 2018
 - officials to work with tertiary education organisations on the details of the delivery mechanism before policy details are publicly announced.
2. Recommendations for tabling at Cabinet are attached.

Speaking points

3. This Government is committed to making the first year of tertiary education or training fees-free for new students from 1 January 2018.
4. I have been working closely with the Ministers of Finance, Social Development, Revenue, and the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Tracey Martin) to develop the details of the policy and the delivery mechanism.
5. Successful implementation of an interim year of fees-free tertiary education from 1 January 2018 depends on students and tertiary education organisations having as early notice as possible of policy and delivery settings.
6. I therefore propose that Cabinet authorise me to determine the delivery mechanism for fees-free tertiary education in 2018, in consultation with the Ministers of Finance, Social Development, Revenue, and the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Tracey Martin).
7. To ensure that tertiary education organisations can implement the delivery mechanism for fees-free, I propose that officials work with them on the details of the delivery mechanism before policy details are publicly announced. I will oversee this, in consultation with the Ministers of Finance, Social Development, Revenue, and the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Tracey Martin).

8. I will report my decisions, and seek agreement to the policy and financial implications, at Cabinet on 27 November, before policy and delivery details are publicly announced.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Douglas

Deputy-Secretary, Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers

Recommendations

The Minister of Education recommends that Cabinet:

1. **Note** that successful implementation of an interim year of fees-free tertiary education from 1 January 2018 depends on students and tertiary education organisations having as early notice as possible of policy and delivery settings
2. **Authorise** the Minister of Education, in consultation with the Ministers of Finance, Social Development, Revenue, and the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Tracey Martin), to determine the delivery mechanism for fees-free tertiary education in 2018
3. **Invite** the Minister of Education to report his decisions, and seek agreement to the policy and financial implications, at Cabinet on 27 November, before decisions are publicly announced
4. **Agree** that officials work with tertiary education organisations on the details of the delivery mechanism for fees-free tertiary education in 2018, with oversight from the Minister of Education, in consultation with the Ministers of Finance, Social Development, Revenue, and the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Tracey Martin), before policy details are publicly announced.