

AIDE MEMOIRE

Employment Strategy Report Back Six-Monthly Update

Date:	11 March 2021	Priority:	Medium
To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education	METIS No:	1253574
From:	Katrina Sutich	Security Level:	In Confidence

Purpose

1. To provide information on the Employment Strategy Report Back: Six-Monthly Update that Minister Sepuloni is presenting to Cabinet on 17 March.

Comment

2. A draft of this Cabinet paper was considered by EET Ministers at your meeting on 25 March 2021.
3. At that meeting, you discussed whether there should be a separate Action Plan focused on women. Since then, Ministers Tinetti and Sepuloni have had a follow up discussion and confirmed that a separate plan is the preferred approach.
4. The Cabinet paper identifies an opportunity to use the Employment Strategy as a framework for improving coordination of labour market policies across government (refer para 7). Minister Sepuloni intends to discuss this with EET Ministers before the next six-monthly report back.
5. Ministry of Education officials and EET Deputy Chief Executives have also reviewed this paper and are broadly comfortable with the update and approach.
6. The Ministry of Education has provided input into the two completed action plans; Youth Employment Action Plan (released August 2019) and Working Matters Disability Employment Action Plan (released August 2020).
7. The Ministry of Education is responsible for a number of actions in the Youth Employment Action Plan, including the Reform of Vocational Education. As part of COVID-19 response and recovery planning, you have instructed Ministry officials to accelerate the establishment of Workforce Development Councils with the aim of having these in place by mid-2021. Workforce Development Councils will play a key role in achieving one of the strategies' long-term objectives – building a skilled workforce that meets business needs.

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

Proactive Release

9. It is intended that this Aide Memoire is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.