

Cabinet Paper material

Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Name of package Additional Item: Change to Counselling Component of the Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce Budget Initiative

Date considered 22 June 2020

Date of release 11 September 2020

These documents have been proactively released:

Additional Item: Cabinet Minute: Change to Counselling Component of the Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce Budget Initiative

22 June 2020

Cabinet office

You can read the Official Information Act 1982 here:
<http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html>



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: Change to Counselling Component of the Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce Budget Initiative

Portfolios **Education / Associate Education (Hon Tracey Martin)**

On 22 June 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that, on 11 May 2020, Cabinet approved the Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce initiative and associated appropriation changes, including a pilot of guidance counselling in primary schools and an increase to the guidance staffing entitlement for schools and kura with over 200 secondary students [CAB-20-MIN-0219.09, Initiative 12675 refers];
- 2 **agreed** to rescind those parts of the decision relating to including a pilot of guidance counselling in primary schools and an increase to the guidance staffing entitlement for schools and kura with over 200 secondary students;
- 3 **agreed**, instead, to include funding to support community organisations to provide guidance counselling for primary and secondary students and an increase to the guidance staffing entitlement targeted towards larger secondary schools;
- 4 **agreed** to the following new initiative description for the Increasing Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Learners and Education Workforce initiative:

This initiative will provide funding to increase the provision of wellbeing and mental health support to learners and the education workforce in response to COVID-19. Initiatives include: funding to support community organisations to provide guidance counselling for primary and secondary students; an increase to the guidance staffing entitlement targeted towards larger schools; the establishment of an urgent response fund for early learning services, schools and kura; the embedding of quality teaching approaches to mental health, wellbeing and healthy relationships in schools, kura and early learning services; increased access to workplace assistance for educators; strengthening mental health services for tertiary students; and local responses to youth mental health and wellbeing. Led by the Minister of Education;
- 5 **noted** that the policy decision in paragraph 3 above requires a transfer of non-departmental funding to departmental funding in order for the Ministry of Education to administer the contracts with community organisations;

- 6 **approved** the following fiscally neutral adjustments to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 3 above, with no impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education Minister of Education	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/23 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Outcomes for Target Student Groups (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Interventions for Target Student Groups (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.465
Primary and Secondary Education (MCA)					
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Secondary Education	-	(0.465)	(0.465)	(0.465)	(0.465)

- 7 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2020/21 above be included in the 2020/21 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet