

Vote Social Investment

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister for Social Investment (M94)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Social Investment Agency (A42)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL INVESTMENT AGENCY: Minister for Social Investment

Overview of the Vote

The Minister for Social Investment is responsible for the appropriations in Vote Social Investment for the 2026/27 financial year covering:

- a total of nearly \$31 million for the Social Investment Fund for *Investments that meet social investment grade standards category* and a total of over \$1 million for *Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach category*
- a total of nearly \$18 million for the provision of strategic cross-system advice and support, creating insights, tools, and practices to support sector-wide implementation of a social investment approach
- a total of nearly \$5 million for the advice on interventions, population cohorts, investment objectives and opportunities for the Social Investment Fund and other social sector investments, as well as the performance monitoring and reporting for the fund
- a total of nearly \$5 million to operate the Social Investment Fund.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses			
Identifying and Coordinating Social Investment Opportunities (M94) (A42) This appropriation is limited to advice on interventions, population cohorts, investment objectives and opportunities for the Social Investment Fund and other social sector investments, as well as the performance monitoring and reporting for the Fund.	5,000	5,000	4,838
Supporting Implementation of a Social Investment Approach (M94) (A42) This appropriation is limited to providing advice and creating insights, tools, and practices to support sector-wide implementation of a social investment approach.	21,128	21,128	17,776
Total Departmental Output Expenses	26,128	26,128	22,614
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Delivering Social Investment Outcomes MCA (M94) (A42) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation to achieve improved social outcomes for New Zealanders through social investment initiatives.	21,000	21,000	36,633
<i>Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes</i> This category is limited to developing, implementing, administering, and evaluating initiatives within the Social Investment Fund.	5,000	5,000	4,838
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach</i> This category is limited to investments aimed at improving the lives of people with complex needs but that lack either clear targeting, reliable impact measurement, or both.	-	-	1,193
<i>Investments that meet social investment grade standards</i> This category is limited to initiatives that aim to improve the lives of people with complex needs that are supported by clear evidence and have a strong likelihood of making a measurable difference.	-	-	30,602
<i>Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts</i> This category is limited to demonstration initiatives that aim to improve outcomes for priority cohorts, trialling the use of cross-sector and outcomes-focused commissioning.	16,000	16,000	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	21,000	21,000	36,633
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	47,128	47,128	59,247

Capital Injection Authorisations

Social Investment Agency - Capital Injection (M94) (A42)	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
	-	-	-

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Evidence-based initiatives that develop positive parenting practices in the first 2,000 days of children's lives	Investments that meet social investment grade standards (M94)	-	3,000	3,000	3,250	3,250
Initiatives for people with complex needs that meet social investment grade standards	Investments that meet social investment grade standards (M94)	-	11,602	13,768	13,678	13,642
Investment aimed at improving the lives of people with complex needs that lack either clear targeting, reliable impact measurement or both	Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach (M94)	-	1,193	1,127	1,152	1,176
Total Increase in Non-Departmental Expense		-	15,795	17,895	18,080	18,068
Additional funding to provide cross-portfolio advice on where existing spending should be prioritised, shifted, scaled, or stopped	Supporting Implementation of a Social Investment Approach	-	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Baseline Savings	Identifying and Coordinating Social Investment Opportunities	-	(162)	(162)	(162)	(162)
	Supporting Implementation of a Social Investment Approach	-	(476)	(476)	(476)	(476)
	Delivering Social Investment Outcomes MCA - Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes	-	(162)	(162)	(162)	(162)
Total Increase in Departmental Expense		-	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Total Initiatives			18,595	20,695	20,880	20,868

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27		2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	-	-	-	14,168	31,128	31,128	22,614	-	22,614	22,614	22,614	22,614
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	4,838	31,795	36,633	38,733	38,918	38,906
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	-	-	-	14,168	47,128	47,128	27,452	31,795	59,247	61,347	61,532	61,520
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered. In this instance Total Appropriations for the Budgeted and Estimated Actual year may not equal Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations in the Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections.

Adjustments to the Summary of Financial Activity Table Due to Vote Restructuring

There have been no restructuring adjustments to prior year information in the Summary of Financial Activity table.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

Details of significant movements within each appropriation type are detailed below:

Appropriations

Output Expenses

The increase between 2025/26 to 2026/27 relates to funding to support the Social Investment Agency to deliver system-level strategic investment advice by strengthening analytical leadership, data and technology platforms, and quality assurance, to improve value for money and long-term outcomes from existing social sector expenditure.

Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Increases in the multi-category appropriation supporting the Social Investment Fund relate to funding draw down from a tagged contingency to fund evidence-based initiatives that develop positive parenting practices in the first 2,000 days of children's lives as well as funding drawn down from a tagged contingency to support the Social Investment Fund's New Investment and Contract Consolidation pathways.

1.4 - Reconciliation of Changes in Appropriation Structure

2025/26 Appropriations in the 2025/26 Structure	2025/26 (Current) \$000	Old Structure		New Structure		
		Appropriations to which Expenses (or Capital Expenditure) have been Moved from or to	Amount Moved \$000	2025/26 Appropriations in the 2026/27 Structure	2025/26 (Restated) \$000	2026/27 \$000
Non-Departmental Output Expenses		Non-Departmental Output Expenses		Non-Departmental Output Expenses		
Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts	16,000	Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts	(16,000)	Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts	16,000	
				Investments that meet social investment grade standards		30,602
				Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach		1,193
Total Non-Departmental Output Expenses	16,000		(16,000)		16,000	31,795

Explanations of the reasons for changing the appropriation structure are noted in the details of each appropriation in Parts 2-4.

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Identifying and Coordinating Social Investment Opportunities (M94) (A42)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to advice on interventions, population cohorts, investment objectives and opportunities for the Social Investment Fund and other social sector investments, as well as the performance monitoring and reporting for the Fund.

Expenses and Revenue

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	5,000	5,000	4,838
Revenue from the Crown	5,000	5,000	4,838
Revenue from Others	-	-	-

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to support the Social Investment Agency to set strategic direction, oversee performance, and explore funding opportunities for the Social Investment Fund and other social sector investments to improve outcomes for priority cohorts.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

The Social Investment Agency is continuing to develop its performance measurement framework as its role, system influence, and evidence base mature. The framework reflects a staged approach, recognising that system-wide impacts will take time to be evident. Changes to performance measures in the Vote Social Investment Estimates 2026/27 reflect this, with further refinement expected in future years as impacts can be more robustly measured.

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Investment Strategy in place	New measure	New measure	Achieved
Fund pathways are supported by clear policy settings and operational guidance	New measure	New measure	Achieved
Number of spending reviews completed that assess effectiveness and identify opportunities to improve value, including potential shifts to the Social Investment Fund	New measure	New measure	2
Examples of funding and commissioning system shifts tested through the Social Investment Fund being applied in the system	New measure	New measure	3
Social Investment Fund return on investment methodology published	New measure	New measure	By 30 June 2027

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Former Measures			
A systematic approach is used for agency expenditure reviews	4 agency reviews commenced with clear methodology	4 agency reviews commenced with clear methodology	Removed for 2026/27
Ministers are supported to identify funding and services for potential transfer	Process established and approved by Ministers	Process established and approved by Ministers	Removed for 2026/27
Investment decisions are guided by a comprehensive investment strategy	Investment Strategy provided to Ministers	Investment Strategy provided to Ministers	Removed for 2026/27
The average overall satisfaction rating given by Social Investment Fund Ministers for the quality of advice on investment opportunities and outcomes	Average score of 4 out of 5 or higher	Average score of 4 out of 5 or higher	Removed for 2026/27
Investment portfolio performance is measured against the Assessment Framework	Assessment Framework developed	Assessment Framework developed	Removed for 2026/27

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Social Investment Agency in the Social Investment Agency's Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Social Investment Fund - Building Foundations to Drive Social Investment	2025/26	5,000	4,838	4,838	4,838	4,838

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation by \$162,000 for 2026/27 is due to savings initiatives delivered on the baseline reduction target for the Social Investment Agency.

Supporting Implementation of a Social Investment Approach (M94) (A42)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to providing advice and creating insights, tools, and practices to support sector-wide implementation of a social investment approach.

Expenses and Revenue

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	21,128	21,128	17,776
Revenue from the Crown	19,804	19,804	17,776
Revenue from Others	1,324	1,324	-

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to support improved social outcomes through the provision of cross-system policy and investment advice, standard-setting and evidence-based insights, and governance support to enable effective social investment.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

The Social Investment Agency is continuing to develop its performance measurement framework as its role, system influence, and evidence base mature. The framework reflects a staged approach, recognising that system-wide impacts will take time to be evident. Changes to performance measures in the Vote Social Investment Estimates 2026/27 reflect this, with further refinement expected in future years as impacts can be more robustly measured.

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
System design and Investment Advice			
Average score for assessed policy papers (see Note 1)	New measure	New measure	3.5
Quality of policy advice - 70% score 3 or higher, 30% score 4 or higher and no more than 10% score 2 or less (see Note 1)	New measure	New measure	Achieved
Satisfaction of the Minister for Social Investment with the policy advice service (see Note 2)	New measure	New measure	4 out of 5
System strategy developed	New measure	New measure	Achieved
System investment and performance framework developed	New measure	New measure	Achieved
System design and investment advice			
Cross-system guidance, tools and/or insights produced	New measure	New measure	5
Capability building activities completed	New measure	New measure	4
Uptake of guidance, tools, insights	New measure	New measure	2
Support for system governance			
Ministerial satisfaction with the support provided for Social Investment Ministers (see Note 2)	New measure	New measure	4 out of 5
Board satisfaction with the support provided for the Social Investment Board (see Note 3)	New measure	New measure	4 out of 5
Responses to ministerial Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests provided within agreed timeframes	New measure	New measure	95%
Former Measures			
The policy and analytical advice provided by the Social Investment Agency enables decision making informed by data and evidence	Quality of policy advice out of a possible 5	Quality of policy advice out of a possible 5	Removed for 2026/27
Social Investment Ministers have trust and confidence in the advice we provide	Quality of policy advice out of a possible 5	Quality of policy advice out of a possible 5	Removed for 2026/27
The Social Investment Agency invests to improve the volume and quality of data and evidence available to funders, providers, and decision makers to enable social investment	New data will be added in the IDI	New data will be added in the IDI	Removed for 2026/27

Note 1 - A sample of the department's policy advice will be assessed by a panel using the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC) Policy Quality Framework. There are two targets for reporting on overall policy advice: an average score and a distribution score. Policy advice will be scored on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means unacceptable and 5 means outstanding.

Note 2 - Ministerial satisfaction is measured using the DPMC Ministerial Satisfaction survey. This is based on a five-point scale: 1=never; 2=some of the time; 3=about half the time; 4=most of the time; 5=always.

Note 3 - The Chair of each body will be surveyed using a bespoke survey that will be based on the standard satisfaction survey provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Social Investment Agency in the Social Investment Agency's Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Additional funding to provide cross-portfolio advice on where existing spending should be prioritised, shifted, scaled, or stopped	2026/27	-	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to:

- An increase of \$3.600 million to support the Social Investment Agency to deliver system level strategic investment advice by strengthening analytical leadership, data and technology platforms, and quality assurance, to improve value for money and long-term outcomes from existing social sector expenditure.
- A decrease of \$476,000 is due to savings initiatives delivered on the baseline reduction target for the Social Investment Agency.

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Delivering Social Investment Outcomes (M94) (A42)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation to achieve improved social outcomes for New Zealanders through social investment initiatives.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes

This category is limited to developing, implementing, administering, and evaluating initiatives within the Social Investment Fund.

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts

This category is limited to demonstration initiatives that aim to improve outcomes for priority cohorts, trialling the use of cross-sector and outcomes-focused commissioning.

Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach

This category is limited to investments aimed at improving the lives of people with complex needs but that lack either clear targeting, reliable impact measurement, or both.

Investments that meet social investment grade standards

This category is limited to initiatives that aim to improve the lives of people with complex needs that are supported by clear evidence and have a strong likelihood of making a measurable difference.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

New categories have been established within this multi-category appropriation to strengthen visibility and oversight of different investment types while retaining flexibility. Measures for each category focus on the conditions needed to achieve impact, with impact measures to be added over time as evidence emerges. Funding from the *Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts* category was moved to the *Investment that meet social investment grade standards* category. When funding is drawn down for other initiatives new categories will be set up for the related funding.

This appropriation supports the Social Investment Fund. This Social Investment Fund supports early interventions and services that help improve the lives of children, young people, and families. It does this by investing in initiatives, approaches and new ways of working that support people with complex needs and strengthen how government works with social service organisation. To achieve this, the Social Investment Fund operates through four pathways:

- New Investment - this pathway invests in new initiatives for people with complex needs that meet social investment grade standards.

- Contract Consolidation - combines existing contracts into a single outcomes-based agreement, reducing administrative burden and increasing flexibility.
- Community-led Commissioning - enables communities to design and deliver services that meet local needs.
- Co-investment - supports joint investment with philanthropic and other partners.

Categories for Community-led Commissioning and Co-Investment Pathways will be set up within this appropriation once they are agreed by Ministers.

The Social Investment Fund focuses on priority outcomes and cohorts agreed by Social Investment Fund Ministers. More information about the priority outcomes and cohorts can be found at www.sia.govt.nz/social-investment-fund/pathway-one-new-investment. More information about the Fund and its pathways can be found at www.sia.govt.nz/social-investment-fund.

Most investments made through the Social Investment Fund must meet defined Social Investment Grade standards prior to contracting to ensure that public funding is allocated to initiatives with a strong likelihood of making a difference. Social Investment Grade Investments share the following characteristics:

- services are delivered to a clearly defined cohort
 - investment is based on a robust, evidence-based Theory of Change, and an understanding of mechanisms of change
 - sufficient scale (people supported and funding per annum) to demonstrate tangible change
 - a clear set of outcomes to be achieved
 - a robust impact and evaluation approach, enabling understanding of what made a difference, for whom, and
 - a learning partnership approach, with mechanisms to adapt and iterate over the life of the investment.
- All investments made through the New Investment pathway meet this standard.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	21,000	21,000	36,633
Departmental Output Expenses			
Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes	5,000	5,000	4,838
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts	16,000	16,000	-
Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach	-	-	1,193
Investments that meet social investment grade standards	-	-	30,602
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	5,000	5,000	4,838
Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes	5,000	5,000	4,838

Comparators for Restructured Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Delivering Social Investment Initiatives for Priority Cohorts	16,000	16,000	-
Investments that meet social investment grade standards	-	-	30,602

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to improve the lives of people with complex needs by investing in approaches with the greatest likelihood of making a difference and by trialling new ways of working.

How Performance will be Assessed for this Appropriation

The performance information in these Estimates has been prepared to align with established requirements for setting clear appropriation-level and category-level performance measures. These measures provide a consistent and transparent basis for reporting within Vote Social Investment. The measures have been updated to reflect the Agency's developing performance framework as the Social Investment Fund is established, recognising that meaningful impact and outcome evidence takes time to emerge.

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Percentage of total Fund expenditure aligned to agreed outcomes	New measure	New measure	>90%
Percentage of total Fund expenditure allocated to initiatives meeting the social investment grade standard	New measure	New measure	Establish a baseline
Former Measures			
Investments are allocated in accordance with the Investment Framework	Investment Framework developed	Investment Framework developed	Removed from 2026/27
Funding is invested in priority cohorts	Priority cohorts identified and approved	Priority cohorts identified and approved	Removed from 2026/27
Investments are outcomes based	Outcomes Measurement Framework developed	Outcomes Measurement Framework developed	Removed from 2026/27
The Social Investment Agency receives reports from funded providers, which includes emerging/early leading indicators of the impact of initiatives	Approach to measuring lead indicators is developed	Approach to measuring lead indicators is developed	Removed from 2026/27

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

The performance information in these Estimates has been prepared to align with established requirements for setting clear appropriation-level and category-level performance measures. These measures provide a consistent and transparent basis for reporting within Vote Social Investment. The measures have been updated to reflect the Agency's developing performance framework as the Social Investment Fund is established, recognising that meaningful impact and outcome evidence takes time to emerge.

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Departmental Output Expenses			
Commissioning for Social Investment Outcomes			
This category is intended to achieve efficient and effective fund management.			
Percentage of total Fund expenditure allocated to fund management	New measure	New measure	<10% annually
Percentage of funded initiatives formally reviewed annually against the Social Investment Fund's outcome objectives and risk profile	New measure	New measure	100% annually
Percentage of required performance reports provided within agreed timeframes	New measure	New measure	>95% annually
Percentage of providers reporting that commissioning arrangements are clear, proportionate, and outcome focused	New measure	New measure	Establish a baseline
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach			
This category is intended to provide a pathway for investments that need more time, clearer focus, or stronger evidence before they can demonstrate measurable impact (see Note 1).			
Percentage of investments demonstrating measurable progress toward social investment grade standard	New measure	New measure	Establish a baseline
Percentage of funded initiatives transitioned to social investment grade standard within three years of entry into the stream	New measure	New measure	>50% transitioned within three years
Investments that meet social investment grade standards			
This category is intended to achieve real, measurable improvements for people with complex needs, by focusing on what works and monitoring progress closely.			
Percentage of investments made through the Fund's New Investments pathway that meet agreed priority cohort criteria	New measure	New measure	>90% each year
Percentage of investments in the category meeting the social investment grade standard at the time of contracting	New measure	New measure	100% each year
Percentage of initiatives in the category demonstrating progress against agreed outcome indicators	New measure	New measure	Establish a baseline
Increasing confidence in a Return on Investment over the four-year period	New measure	New measure	Establish a baseline

Note 1 - These are initiatives that do not yet meet the criteria for a high quality, evidence-based social investment approach. Most of these investments are expected to enter the Social Investment Fund through pathways other than the New Investment pathway, particularly through contract consolidation or a result of funding reviews. The main reason these initiatives may not yet meet the standard that they have:

- broad or open access referral models, meaning the group of people being supported is not clearly defined, and
- insufficient scale, making it difficult to measure whether the service is directly contributing to the outcome being achieved.

These initiatives may have strong potential, but they typically need more time, clearer targeting, and better evidence before they can demonstrate measurable impact.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Social Investment Agency in the Social Investment Agency Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Evidence-based initiatives that develop positive parenting practices in the first 2,000 days of children's lives	2026/27	-	3,000	3,000	3,250	3,250
Initiatives for people with complex needs that meet social investment grade standards	2026/27	-	11,602	13,768	13,678	13,642
Investment aimed at improving the lives of people with complex needs that lack either clear targeting, reliable impact measurement or both	2026/27	-	1,193	1,127	1,152	1,176

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to:

- an increase of nearly \$12 million for *Investments that meet social investment grade standards category*
- an increase of \$3 million for evidence-based initiatives that develop positive parenting practices in the first 2,000 days of children's lives
- an increase of over \$1 million for *Investments being made as part of transition arrangements to support a shift to contracting that better reflects a social investment approach*
- a decrease of \$162,000 is due to savings initiatives delivered on the baseline reduction target for the Social Investment Agency.