

Vote Social Development

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister of Housing (M37), Minister of Revenue (M57), Minister for Seniors (M61), Minister for Social Development and Employment (M63), Minister for Veterans (M75), Minister for Youth (M77)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Ministry of Social Development (A25)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Minister for Social Development and Employment

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses			
Administration of Service Cards (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to assessing entitlement for and issuing the Community Services Card, SuperGold Card and Veteran SuperGold Card, and providing information about the Community Service Card.	7,165	-	7,165
Corporate Support Services (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of corporate support services to other agencies.	19,646	(3,555)	16,091
Data, Analytics and Evidence Services (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing data, analytics and evidence services to better inform government decision-making.	40,815	450	41,265
Enhancement and Promotion of SuperGold Cards (M61) (A25) This appropriation is limited to promoting, enhancing and delivering information about the SuperGold and Veteran SuperGold cards, and enlisting businesses to provide discounts to SuperGold cardholders.	1,734	-	1,734
Income Support and Assistance to Seniors (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to processing and administering New Zealand Superannuation payments, social security entitlements and international social security agreements to older people, providing advice to older people, and assessing financial entitlement to residential subsidies.	65,804	-	65,804
Investigation of Overpayments and Fraudulent Payments and Collection of Overpayments (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to services to minimise errors, fraud and abuse of the benefit system and Income-Related Rent, and services to manage the collection of overpayments, recoverable assistance loans and other balances owed by former clients.	65,448	-	65,448
Management of Student Loans (M57) (A25) This appropriation is limited to assessing, administering, processing and reviewing entitlements for Student Loan payments and providing guidance to students making financial and study decisions.	23,689	5,000	28,689
Management of Student Support (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to managing non-recoverable financial support to students, involving assessing, administering and processing Student Allowance payments and other income support to eligible secondary and tertiary students.	23,590	5,000	28,590
Planning, Correspondence and Monitoring (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing planning, reporting and monitoring advice (other than policy decision-making advice) on Crown entities, statutory appointment advice on Crown entities and statutory tribunals, and correspondence services to support Ministers to discharge their portfolio responsibilities.	6,584	800	7,384
Policy Advice (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing advice (including second opinion advice and contributions to policy advice led by other agencies) to support decision-making by Ministers on government social policy and related matters, including social sector issues.	23,047	125	23,172

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
Processing of Veteran's Pensions (M75) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the processing and administrative aspects of payment of Veteran's Pensions and related allowances.	757	-	757
Promoting Positive Outcomes for Seniors (M61) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing information and facilitation to protect the rights and interests of older people, to promote local community involvement in senior issues, and ministerial services.	1,870	-	1,870
Services to Support People to Access Accommodation (M37) (A25) This appropriation is limited to assessing and reviewing eligibility for housing needs and Income-Related Rent, managing the public housing register and supporting the holistic needs of people and their families receiving housing-related case management support.	94,834	(9,227)	85,607
Total Departmental Output Expenses	374,983	(1,407)	373,576
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Ministry of Social Development - Capital Expenditure PLA (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Ministry of Social Development, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.	65,972	445	66,417
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	65,972	445	66,417
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Children and Young People's Commission (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of services from the Children and Young People's Commission including the discharge of the Commission's functions, duties and powers under the Children and Young People's Commission Act 2022.	8,216	-	8,216
Community Participation Services (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of services, resources, assistance and support to people so they can participate in and contribute to the wider community.	133,647	-	133,647
Driver Licence Support (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing driver licensing assistance to eligible people who face significant barriers to obtaining a driver licence.	20,856	-	20,856
Housing Place-Based Approaches (M37) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the delivery of housing-related services and operational support of collective initiatives utilising a place-based approach.	917	-	917
Independent Children's Monitor (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of services from the Independent Children's Monitor, including the discharge of the Monitor's functions, duties and powers under the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022.	400	10,987	11,387
Social Workers Registration Board (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to supporting the Social Workers Registration Board deliver mandatory registration and workforce planning for all social workers, and to services to investigate and respond to alleged offending under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003.	937	50	987
Student Placement Services (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to placement services for students for holiday and term employment.	3,512	-	3,512
Total Non-Departmental Output Expenses	168,485	11,037	179,522

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
Benefits or Related Expenses			
Accommodation Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to payments for accommodation costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	2,289,453	72,482	2,361,935
Childcare Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to assistance for the costs of childcare that meets specific quality guidelines, where parents meet activity and income criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	178,009	(6,520)	171,489
Disability Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the Disability Allowance for people with disability costs, the Child Disability Allowance to the caregivers of children with a serious disability, and the Special Disability Allowance for the purpose of defraying expenses from the hospitalisation of a spouse or partner, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018. The Special Disability Allowance may also be paid in accordance with criteria set out in the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001.	510,529	14,285	524,814
Emergency Housing Assistance (M37) (A25) This appropriation is limited to payments for emergency housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	60,048	(16,751)	43,297
Hardship Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to Civil Defence payments, Funeral Grants, Special Benefit, Special Needs Grants, Temporary Accommodation Assistance and Temporary Additional Support to provide means-tested temporary financial assistance to people with emergency or essential costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	837,074	18,443	855,517
Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for Jobseeker Support or an Emergency Benefit, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	4,838,669	172,445	5,011,114
New Zealand Superannuation (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to an income for people who have reached the qualifying age of 65 years and fulfil the residency requirements, as provided for in the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001.	24,690,940	85,782	24,776,722
Orphan's/Unsupported Child's Benefit (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the Orphan's/Unsupported Child's Benefit and additional assistance to provide income support for people charged with the responsibility for a child whose parents are dead or cannot be located, suffer a serious long-term disablement, or where there has been a breakdown in the child's family, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	416,772	8,713	425,485
Sole Parent Support (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for Sole Parent Support, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	2,331,471	86,068	2,417,539
Special Circumstance Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to financial assistance to people in special circumstances and comprises the Clothing Allowance, and providing assistance for community costs, domestic violence and witness protection relocation, home help, social rehabilitation assistance, telephone costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018; and Civilian Amputees Assistance, paid in accordance with criteria set out in the Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975.	11,859	(141)	11,718

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Student Allowances (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to means-tested allowances for students on an approved study programme, paid in accordance with criteria set out in the Student Allowances Regulations 1998; and payment of Student Allowance Transfer Grants to students with dependants, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	635,207	41,954	677,161
Study Scholarships and Awards (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to scholarships and awards to tertiary students awarded in accordance with Cabinet decisions; and Teach NZ Scholarships awarded in accordance with the Education and Training Act 2020.	20,426	-	20,426
Supported Living Payment (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for the Supported Living Payment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	2,781,849	69,940	2,851,789
Training Incentive Allowance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the Training Incentive Allowance, paid in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.	23,781	(3,789)	19,992
Transitional Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to supplementary financial assistance to people who are adversely affected by changes in policy or legislation, so they will not be financially worse off at the point of change, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	500	(375)	125
Veteran's Pension (M75) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of the Veteran's Pension, and lump sum payments upon the death of a qualifying veteran or a veteran's qualifying spouse or partner, to eligible veterans and their spouses, partners and dependent children, as set out in the Veterans' Support Act 2014 and delegated legislation made under that Act.	132,278	468	132,746
Winter Energy Payment (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the Winter Energy Payment, paid to eligible people in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	576,688	24,008	600,696
Work Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to payments to beneficiaries, low-income earners, students and ex beneficiaries to assist them to obtain and maintain employment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	3,916	(449)	3,467
Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to income support and incentive payments for people who are eligible for the Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	80,202	(252)	79,950
Total Benefits or Related Expenses	40,419,671	566,311	40,985,982

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Apprentice Support (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to supporting employers of existing and incoming apprentices through the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative in accordance with criteria established by Cabinet.	25,729	(3,000)	22,729
Debt Write-downs (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision for write-downs of Crown debt administered by the Ministry of Social Development due to debt write offs or debt provisions resulting from the need to value debt in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.	141,870	64,057	205,927
Emergency Housing Support Package (M37) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of products and services to help families with children who are living in emergency housing accommodation and who have received, and remain eligible to receive Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	750	-	750
Extraordinary Care Fund (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to providing financial assistance to carers receiving the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit to assist with costs for children in their care who are either experiencing difficulties that significantly impact on their development, or who are showing promise.	2,308	-	2,308
Out of School Care and Recreation Programmes (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the provision of assistance to Out of School Care and Recreation programmes approved in accordance with regulations made under the Social Security Act 2018, to assist with the establishment and/or operating costs of OSCAR programmes.	23,901	(1,650)	22,251
Reimbursement of Income-Related Rent Overpayments (M37) (A25) This appropriation is limited to reimbursing overpayments resulting from the reassessment of the Income-Related Rent.	6,811	(422)	6,389
Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses	201,369	58,985	260,354
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Independent Children's Monitor Capital Injection (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to capital injections into the Independent Children's Monitor.	-	4,369	4,369
Recoverable Assistance (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to recoverable assistance payments, as a facility for low-income earners and beneficiaries to access means-tested assistance to help them to meet essential and immediate needs, or costs in specific circumstances, and to meet costs of pre-employment drug tests, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.	297,475	(3,368)	294,107
Student Loans (M57) (A25) This appropriation is limited to loans to tertiary students undertaking studies at approved tertiary institutions in accordance with Cabinet decisions.	1,990,094	219,614	2,209,708
Total Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure	2,287,569	220,615	2,508,184

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Community Support Services MCA (M63) (A25) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to prevent and reduce vulnerability and harm for individuals, families and communities.	322,475	(1,121)	321,354
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Developing and Managing Community Services</i> This category is limited to approving, monitoring, contracting and managing the relationships with community-based service providers; engaging with communities and developing services.	39,008	1,460	40,468
<i>Regional System Leadership Framework</i> This category is limited to co-ordinating and delivering public services at a regional level.	4,000	1,550	5,550
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Community Support and Advice</i> This category is limited to services that build financial capability, develop community and provider capability and provide targeted advice and support for vulnerable individuals and families.	50,002	2,453	52,455
<i>Improving Children's Participation in Education</i> This category is limited to programmes and services that enable children to better engage and participate in education.	1,642	-	1,642
<i>Participation and Support Services for Seniors</i> This category is limited to services that address isolation, abuse and neglect of older people, and support participation in communities.	14,239	(1,200)	13,039
<i>Place-Based Approaches</i> This category is limited to the delivery of services and operational support of collective initiatives following a place-based approach.	6,691	(4,000)	2,691
<i>Supporting Victims and Perpetrators of Family and Sexual Violence</i> This category is limited to services that support victims of family and sexual violence and address perpetrator behaviour.	191,993	(1,384)	190,609
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
<i>Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events</i> This category is limited to financial support for communities that have been impacted by an adverse or emergency event.	14,900	-	14,900

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
Housing Support Assistance MCA (M37) (A25)	170,811	(870)	169,941
The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to support people to access or retain housing.			
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Provision to better prepare people to access and sustain private rentals</i>	1,613	-	1,613
This category is limited to the provision of programmes to help prepare people to obtain and sustain private rental accommodation.			
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
<i>Non-Recoverable Housing Support Assistance</i>	2,396	37	2,433
This category is limited to non-recoverable Housing Support Assistance, to help people obtain and/or retain housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.			
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure			
<i>Recoverable Housing Support Assistance</i>	166,802	(907)	165,895
This category is limited to recoverable Housing Support Assistance, to help people obtain and/or retain housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.			
Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support MCA (M63) (A25)	1,159,520	3,990	1,163,510
The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to operate the benefit system and associated interventions in such a way as to improve client outcomes (employment and social) by moving them closer to independence, with a focus on those at risk of long term benefit receipt.			
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Administering Income Support</i>	436,668	1,265	437,933
This category is limited to assessing, paying, reviewing entitlements and collecting balances owed by clients for income support, supplementary assistance, grants and allowances, and administering international social security agreements relating to disabled people, sole parents, and widows and widowers.			
<i>Improving Employment Outcomes</i>	563,520	430	563,950
This category is limited to providing assistance, services and other interventions, including associated administrative expenses, either in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018, or as approved by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, or consistent with strategic direction set by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, to eligible people to help them move into and retain employment.			
<i>Improving Work-Readiness Outcomes</i>	116,514	-	116,514
This category is limited to providing assistance, services and other interventions, including associated administrative expenses, either in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018, or as approved by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, or consistent with strategic direction set by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, to eligible people to address barriers to employment to help them become work-ready.			
<i>Jobs and Skills Hubs</i>	7,054	-	7,054
This category is limited to expenses incurred in establishing, operating and administering jobs and skills hubs to work with employers to facilitate job brokerage and training.			

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>He Poutama Rangatahi</i> This category is limited to supporting training and employment programmes for young people not in education, employment or training and at risk of poor labour market outcomes in the long-term.	33,368	-	33,368
<i>Pacific employment and training programmes</i> This category is limited to expenses incurred on employment and training programmes that support Pacific Peoples.	2,396	2,295	4,691
Partnering for Youth Development MCA (M77) (A25) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to improve outcomes for young people through youth development.	18,481	(1,400)	17,081
<i>Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Administering Youth Development</i> This category is limited to developing, promoting and funding a positive youth development approach in partnership with businesses, iwi and the philanthropic and youth sectors.	3,882	100	3,982
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Delivering Youth Development</i> This category is limited to purchasing youth development outcomes.	14,599	(1,500)	13,099
Redress for Abuse in Care MCA (M63) (A25) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to enable the Government's response to redress recommendations made by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.	75,334	32,521	107,855
<i>Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Delivering redress for abuse in care</i> This category is limited to responding to, designing, implementing and delivering redress for abuse in care	24,184	5,922	30,106
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Support Services</i> This category is limited to providing third party support services to people who report experiencing abuse in state care.	12,150	2,000	14,150
<i>Non-Departmental Other Expenses</i>			
<i>Redress Payments</i> This category is limited to providing financial redress to people who experienced abuse in state care.	39,000	24,599	63,599
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	1,746,621	33,120	1,779,741
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	45,264,670	889,106	46,153,776

Multi-Year Appropriations

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Departmental Other Expenses		
Ministry of Social Development - Services for the Future Programme (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the design and implementation of a modern system for administering welfare support and related interventions. Commences: 01 July 2025 Expires: 30 June 2030	Original Appropriation	67,590
	Adjustments to 2024/25	-
	Adjustments for 2025/26	889,346
	Adjusted Appropriation	956,936
	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	-
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	128,924
	Estimate for 2026/27	195,577
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	632,435

Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	45,264,670	889,106	46,153,776
Total Forecast MYA Departmental Other Expenses	67,590	61,334	128,924
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations	45,332,260	950,440	46,282,700

Capital Injection Authorisations

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Ministry of Social Development - Capital Injection (M63) (A25)	16,052	-	16,052

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2025/26				
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates			Total \$000
		Departmental Transactions \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions \$000	Total Transactions \$000	
Appropriations					
Output Expenses	543,468	(1,407)	11,037	9,630	553,098
Benefits or Related Expenses	40,419,671	N/A	566,311	566,311	40,985,982
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	268,959	61,334	58,985	120,319	389,278
Capital Expenditure	2,353,541	445	220,615	221,060	2,574,601
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	N/A	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)					
<i>Output Expenses</i>	1,523,523	10,727	(1,336)	9,391	1,532,914
<i>Other Expenses</i>	56,296	-	24,636	24,636	80,932
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	166,802	N/A	(907)	(907)	165,895
Total Appropriations	45,332,260	71,099	879,341	950,440	46,282,700
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts					
Tax Revenue	-	N/A	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	13,240	N/A	893	893	14,133
Capital Receipts	1,139,565	N/A	105,064	105,064	1,244,629
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	1,152,805	N/A	105,957	105,957	1,258,762

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Corporate Support Services (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of corporate support services to other agencies.

Expenses and Revenue

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	19,646	(3,555)	16,091
Revenue from the Crown	-	-	-
Revenue from Others	19,646	(3,555)	16,091

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$3.555 million to \$16.091 million for 2025/26 due to a downward revision of \$4.526 million for corporate support services provided to other agencies.

The above is offset by an increase for Te Kāhui Kāhu (social sector accreditation services) of \$971,000.

Data, Analytics and Evidence Services (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to providing data, analytics and evidence services to better inform government decision-making.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$450,000 to \$41.265 million for 2025/26 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$500,000 to the Ministry's departmental appropriations due to increased demand for data, analytics and evidence.

The above is partially offset by a \$50,000 transfer to the Social Workers Registration Board to fund prosecutions.

Management of Student Loans (M57) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to assessing, administering, processing and reviewing entitlements for Student Loan payments and providing guidance to students making financial and study decisions.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$5 million to \$28.689 million for 2025/26 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$5 million to the Ministry's departmental appropriations to fund frontline activity to respond to changes in demand for student loans.

Management of Student Support (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to managing non-recoverable financial support to students, involving assessing, administering and processing Student Allowance payments and other income support to eligible secondary and tertiary students.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$5 million to \$28.590 million for 2025/26 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$5 million to the Ministry's departmental appropriations to fund frontline activity to respond to changes in demand for student support.

Planning, Correspondence and Monitoring (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to providing planning, reporting and monitoring advice (other than policy decision-making advice) on Crown entities, statutory appointment advice on Crown entities and statutory tribunals, and correspondence services to support Ministers to discharge their portfolio responsibilities.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$800,000 to \$7.384 million for 2025/26 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment to the Ministry's departmental appropriations to provide for increased Ministerial services costs in 2025/26.

Policy Advice (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to providing advice (including second opinion advice and contributions to policy advice led by other agencies) to support decision-making by Ministers on government social policy and related matters, including social sector issues.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The appropriation increased by \$125,000 to \$23.172 million due to the retention of an underspend to support the Child Wellbeing Poverty Reduction Group strategy refresh.

Services to Support People to Access Accommodation (M37) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to assessing and reviewing eligibility for housing needs and Income-Related Rent, managing the public housing register and supporting the holistic needs of people and their families receiving housing-related case management support.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$9.227 million to \$85.607 for 2025/26 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$10.300 million to the Ministry's departmental appropriations as a result of reduced demand for emergency housing support for housing clients in 2025/26.

The above is partially offset by \$1.073 million from an inter-year transfer for the Housing Supports - Including Boarders' Contributions to the calculation of subsidies initiative.

2.2 - Departmental Other Expenses

Ministry of Social Development - Services for the Future Programme (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation and Expenses

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Ministry of Social Development - Services for the Future Programme (M63) (A25) This appropriation is limited to the design and implementation of a modern system for administering welfare support and related interventions. Commences: 01 July 2025 Expires: 30 June 2030	Original Appropriation	67,590
	Adjustments to 2024/25	-
	Adjustments for 2025/26	889,346
	Adjusted Appropriation	956,936
	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	-
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	128,924
	Estimate for 2026/27	195,577
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	632,435

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The appropriation increased by \$889.346 million for 2025/26 due to:

- a drawdown of \$843.012 million from the services for the future tagged contingency across the forecast period, and
- an inter-year transfer for \$46.334 million from 2024/25 into the 2025/26 financial year.

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Ministry of Social Development - Capital Expenditure PLA (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Ministry of Social Development, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	33,555	(21,228)	12,327
Intangibles	32,417	21,673	54,090
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	65,972	445	66,417

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$445,000 to \$66.417 million for 2025/26 due to revisions to the capital programme.

Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets

Ministry of Social Development

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2025/26 Main Estimates Projections \$000	2025/26 Supplementary Estimates Projections \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2025/26
Opening Balance	356,327	358,448	Supplementary Estimates opening balance reflects the audited results as at 30 June 2025.
Capital Injections	16,052	16,052	
Capital Withdrawals	-	(1,747)	A capital to operating swap for an office relocation in Lower Hutt.
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	372,379	372,753	

Part 3 - Details of Non-Departmental Appropriations

3.1 - Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Independent Children's Monitor (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of services from the Independent Children's Monitor, including the discharge of the Monitor's functions, duties and powers under the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$10.987 million to \$11.387 million for 2025/26 due to the transfer of funding from Vote Education Review Office to Vote Social Development to establish the Independent Children's Monitor as an independent Crown entity.

Social Workers Registration Board (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to supporting the Social Workers Registration Board deliver mandatory registration and workforce planning for all social workers, and to services to investigate and respond to alleged offending under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$50,000 to \$987,000 for 2025/26 for the Social Workers Registration Board to fund prosecutions.

3.2 - Non-Departmental Benefits or Related Expenses

Accommodation Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to payments for accommodation costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$72.482 million to \$2,361.935 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$53.600 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$9.847 million for a higher average payment per person than previously forecast, and
- \$9.037 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast for Accommodation Supplement.

The above is partially offset by \$2,000 for a lower number of people than previously forecast for Special Transfer Allowance.

Childcare Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to assistance for the costs of childcare that meets specific quality guidelines, where parents meet activity and income criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$6.520 million to \$171.489 million for 2025/26 due to \$19.584 million for a lower number of children than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$12.300 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$507,000 for a higher average payment per child (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast, and
- \$257,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

Disability Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the Disability Allowance for people with disability costs, the Child Disability Allowance to the caregivers of children with a serious disability, and the Special Disability Allowance for the purpose of defraying expenses from the hospitalisation of a spouse or partner, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018. The Special Disability Allowance may also be paid in accordance with criteria set out in the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$14.285 million to \$524.814 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$7 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$3.697 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast
- \$3.116 million for a higher average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast, and
- \$472,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

Emergency Housing Assistance (M37) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to payments for emergency housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$16.751 million to \$43.297 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$10.187 million for a lower number of grants than previously forecast, and
- \$10.064 million for a lower average payment per grant than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$3.500 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure.

Hardship Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to Civil Defence payments, Funeral Grants, Special Benefit, Special Needs Grants, Temporary Accommodation Assistance and Temporary Additional Support to provide means-tested temporary financial assistance to people with emergency or essential costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$18.443 million to \$855.517 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$40 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$304,000 for higher other payments than previously forecast
- \$93,000 for a higher number of people than previously forecast for Special Benefit, and
- \$25,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$18.480 million for a lower number of people than previously forecast for Temporary Additional Support
- \$1.934 million for a lower average payment per person than previously forecast for Temporary Additional Support
- \$1.021 million for a lower average payment per grant than previously forecast for Special Needs Grants
- \$458,000 for a lower number of grants than previously forecast for Special Needs Grants, and
- \$86,000 for a lower average payment per person than previously forecast for Special Benefit.

Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for Jobseeker Support or an Emergency Benefit, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$172.445 million to \$5,011.114 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$127.646 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast

- \$67 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$11.255 million for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast, and
- \$8.260 million for a higher average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$41.709 million for higher-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast, and
- \$7,000 for higher-than-expected overseas pension recoveries than previously forecast.

New Zealand Superannuation (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to an income for people who have reached the qualifying age of 65 years and fulfil the residency requirements, as provided for in the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$85.782 million to \$24,776.722 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$54.081 million for higher-than-expected inflation and wage adjustments than previously forecast
- \$47 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$18.270 million for a higher average payment per person (before inflation and wage adjustments) than previously forecast
- \$6.980 million for lower-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast, and
- \$771,000 for a higher number of people than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$41.320 million for higher-than-expected overseas pension recoveries than previously forecast.

Orphan's/Unsupported Child's Benefit (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the Orphan's/Unsupported Child's Benefit and additional assistance to provide income support for people charged with the responsibility for a child whose parents are dead or cannot be located, suffer a serious long-term disablement, or where there has been a breakdown in the child's family, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$8.713 million to \$425.485 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$8.400 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$3.155 million for a higher average payment per child (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast, and
- \$790,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$3.470 million for a lower number of children than previously forecast, and
- \$162,000 for higher-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast.

Sole Parent Support (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for Sole Parent Support, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$86.068 million to \$2,417.539 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$48.240 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast
- \$27.600 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$6.929 million for a higher average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast, and
- \$5.421 million for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$2.122 million for higher-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast.

Special Circumstance Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to financial assistance to people in special circumstances and comprises the Clothing Allowance, and providing assistance for community costs, domestic violence and witness protection relocation, home help, social rehabilitation assistance, telephone costs, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018; and Civilian Amputees Assistance, paid in accordance with criteria set out in the Disabled Persons Community Welfare Act 1975.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$141,000 to \$11.718 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$1.009 million for a lower number of people than previously forecast, and
- \$90,000 for a lower average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$900,000 for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$58,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

Student Allowances (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to means-tested allowances for students on an approved study programme, paid in accordance with criteria set out in the Student Allowances Regulations 1998; and payment of Student Allowance Transfer Grants to students with dependants, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$41.954 million to \$677.161 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$30 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$29.093 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast, and
- \$1.908 million for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$19.047 million for a lower average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

Supported Living Payment (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to means-tested income support for people who are eligible for the Supported Living Payment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$69.940 million to \$2,851.789 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$38.777 million for a higher number of people than previously forecast
- \$22 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$14.936 million for a higher average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast
- \$6.444 million for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast, and
- \$111,000 for lower-than-expected overseas pension recoveries than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$12.328 million for higher-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast.

Training Incentive Allowance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the Training Incentive Allowance, paid in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$3.789 million to \$19.992 million for 2025/26 due to \$7.986 million for a lower number of people than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$2.397 million for a higher average payment per person than previously forecast, and
- \$1.800 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure.

Transitional Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to supplementary financial assistance to people who are adversely affected by changes in policy or legislation, so they will not be financially worse off at the point of change, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$375,000 to \$125,000 for 2025/26 due to lower-than-expected demand than previously forecast.

Veteran's Pension (M75) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of the Veteran's Pension, and lump sum payments upon the death of a qualifying veteran or a veteran's qualifying spouse or partner, to eligible veterans and their spouses, partners and dependent children, as set out in the Veterans' Support Act 2014 and delegated legislation made under that Act.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$468,000 to \$132.746 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$1.200 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure
- \$276,000 for higher-than-expected inflation and wage adjustments than previously forecast, and
- \$122,000 for lower-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$985,000 for a lower number of people than previously forecast
- \$115,000 for a lower average payment per person (before inflation and wage adjustments) than previously forecast, and
- \$30,000 for higher-than-expected overseas pension recoveries than previously forecast.

Winter Energy Payment (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the Winter Energy Payment, paid to eligible people in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$24.008 million to \$600.696 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$22.452 million for a higher average payment per person than previously forecast, and
- \$18 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure.

The above is partially offset by \$16.444 million for a lower number of people than previously forecast.

Work Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to payments to beneficiaries, low-income earners, students and ex beneficiaries to assist them to obtain and maintain employment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$449,000 to \$3.467 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$946,000 for a lower number of people than previously forecast, and
- \$10,000 for a lower average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$500,000 for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$7,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to income support and incentive payments for people who are eligible for the Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$252,000 to \$79.950 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$1.386 million for a lower number of people than previously forecast
- \$561,000 for higher-than-expected debt establishments than previously forecast, and
- \$274,000 for a lower average payment per person (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$1.800 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$169,000 for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

3.4 - Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Apprentice Support (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to supporting employers of existing and incoming apprentices through the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative in accordance with criteria established by Cabinet.

Expenses

	2025/26		Total \$000
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	
Total Appropriation	25,729	(3,000)	22,729

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$3 million to \$22.729 million for 2025/26 due to the Apprenticeship Boost - Reprioritising Underspends initiative because there was a lower-than-expected uptake of the scheme in 2025/26.

Debt Write-downs (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision for write-downs of Crown debt administered by the Ministry of Social Development due to debt write offs or debt provisions resulting from the need to value debt in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$64.057 million to \$205.927 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$60 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$4.057 million for changes in the level of outstanding debt, interest rates and other factors used to calculate the debt write-down provision.

Out of School Care and Recreation Programmes (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of assistance to Out of School Care and Recreation programmes approved in accordance with regulations made under the Social Security Act 2018, to assist with the establishment and/or operating costs of OSCAR programmes.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$1.650 million to \$22.251 million for 2025/26 due to a transfer of funding to the Community Support Services MCA for OSCAR programme re-design work and for increased Te Kāhui Kāhu accreditation volumes and costs.

Reimbursement of Income-Related Rent Overpayments (M37) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to reimbursing overpayments resulting from the reassessment of the Income-Related Rent.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$422,000 to \$6.389 million for 2025/26 due to a lower level of reimbursements paid to clients resulting from the reassessment of their Income Related Rent.

3.5 - Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure

Independent Children's Monitor Capital Injection (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to capital injections into the Independent Children's Monitor.

Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	-	4,369	4,369

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the establishment of the Independent Children's Monitor as an independent Crown entity (previously the Independent Children's Monitor was a departmental agency). The funding will enable the Independent Children's Monitor to invest in property, plant and equipment to support its long-term independence and efficient operation as a Crown entity.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Assessment of Performance			
To establish itself as an independent Crown entity, the Independent Children's Monitor will prepare a capital plan that is approved by its Board by 30 June 2026 (see Disclosure 1)	New measure	Achieved	Achieved

Disclosure 1 - This measure has been added to provide performance information on this new appropriation. The plan will be agreed by the Board.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Independent Children's Monitor in its annual report.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation was created and set at \$4.369 million for 2025/26 due to the transfer of funding from Vote Education Review Office to Vote Social Development to establish the Independent Children's Monitor as an independent Crown entity.

Recoverable Assistance (M63) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to recoverable assistance payments, as a facility for low-income earners and beneficiaries to access means-tested assistance to help them to meet essential and immediate needs, or costs in specific circumstances, and to meet costs of pre-employment drug tests, paid in accordance with criteria set out in, or in delegated legislation made under, the Social Security Act 2018.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$3.368 million to \$294.107 million for 2025/26 due to \$22.189 million for a lower number of grants than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$12 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$6.821 million for a higher average payment per grant than previously forecast.

Student Loans (M57) (A25)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to loans to tertiary students undertaking studies at approved tertiary institutions in accordance with Cabinet decisions.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$219.614 million to \$2,209.708 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$443.055 million for a higher number of loan recipients than previously forecast
- \$70 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$6.943 million for higher-than-expected inflation adjustments than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by \$300.384 million for a lower average payment per student loan (before inflation adjustments) than previously forecast.

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

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Community Support Services (M63) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to prevent and reduce vulnerability and harm for individuals, families and communities.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Developing and Managing Community Services

This category is limited to approving, monitoring, contracting and managing the relationships with community-based service providers; engaging with communities and developing services.

Regional System Leadership Framework

This category is limited to co-ordinating and delivering public services at a regional level.

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Community Support and Advice

This category is limited to services that build financial capability, develop community and provider capability and provide targeted advice and support for vulnerable individuals and families.

Improving Children's Participation in Education

This category is limited to programmes and services that enable children to better engage and participate in education.

Participation and Support Services for Seniors

This category is limited to services that address isolation, abuse and neglect of older people, and support participation in communities.

Place-Based Approaches

This category is limited to the delivery of services and operational support of collective initiatives following a place-based approach.

Supporting Victims and Perpetrators of Family and Sexual Violence

This category is limited to services that support victims of family and sexual violence and address perpetrator behaviour.

Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events

This category is limited to financial support for communities that have been impacted by an adverse or emergency event.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	322,475	(1,121)	321,354
Departmental Output Expenses			
Developing and Managing Community Services	39,008	1,460	40,468
Regional System Leadership Framework	4,000	1,550	5,550
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Community Support and Advice	50,002	2,453	52,455
Improving Children's Participation in Education	1,642	-	1,642
Participation and Support Services for Seniors	14,239	(1,200)	13,039
Place-Based Approaches	6,691	(4,000)	2,691
Supporting Victims and Perpetrators of Family and Sexual Violence	191,993	(1,384)	190,609
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	14,900	-	14,900
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	43,008	235	43,243
Developing and Managing Community Services	39,008	1,460	40,468
Regional System Leadership Framework	4,000	(1,225)	2,775
Revenue from Others	-	2,775	2,775
Regional System Leadership Framework	-	2,775	2,775

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$1.121 million to \$321.354 million for 2025/26 due to:

- \$7 million reduction to continue funding the Food Secure Communities and KickStart Breakfast programmes in future years
- \$1.100 million reduction due to a fiscally neutral adjustment for the Ministry's departmental appropriations due to lower than anticipated costs in 2025/26, and
- \$184,000 reduction due to family and sexual violence programme transfers between years.

This is partially offset by:

- additional funding and inter-year transfers of \$2.928 million to address methamphetamine-related harm by funding the continuation of the Resilience to Organised Crime in Communities work programme
- a transfer of \$1.650 million for OSCAR programme re-design work and increased Te Kāhui Kāhu accreditation volumes and costs

- net additional funding and transfers of \$1.550 million for the Regional System Leadership Framework to support joined-up regional planning and partnerships
- a drawdown of \$550,000 for transitional funding for a provider to continue providing wraparound services to vulnerable young people and their whānau, and
- \$485,000 of additional funding following the drawdown of a parenting programme contingency.

Housing Support Assistance (M37) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to support people to access or retain housing.

Scope of Appropriation

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Provision to better prepare people to access and sustain private rentals

This category is limited to the provision of programmes to help prepare people to obtain and sustain private rental accommodation.

Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Non-Recoverable Housing Support Assistance

This category is limited to non-recoverable Housing Support Assistance, to help people obtain and/or retain housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.

Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure

Recoverable Housing Support Assistance

This category is limited to recoverable Housing Support Assistance, to help people obtain and/or retain housing, paid in accordance with criteria set out in delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	170,811	(870)	169,941
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Provision to better prepare people to access and sustain private rentals	1,613	-	1,613
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Non-Recoverable Housing Support Assistance	2,396	37	2,433
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Recoverable Housing Support Assistance	166,802	(907)	165,895

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$870,000 to \$169.941 million for 2025/26 due to \$11.614 million for a lower number of grants than previously forecast.

The above is partially offset by:

- \$9 million for the Supplementary Estimates add-on, which is required for demand driven appropriations to lower the risk of incurring unappropriated expenditure. It does not reflect an increase in forecast expenditure, and
- \$1.744 million for a higher average payment per grant than previously forecast.

Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support (M63) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to operate the benefit system and associated interventions in such a way as to improve client outcomes (employment and social) by moving them closer to independence, with a focus on those at risk of long term benefit receipt.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Administering Income Support

This category is limited to assessing, paying, reviewing entitlements and collecting balances owed by clients for income support, supplementary assistance, grants and allowances, and administering international social security agreements relating to disabled people, sole parents, and widows and widowers.

Improving Employment Outcomes

This category is limited to providing assistance, services and other interventions, including associated administrative expenses, either in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018, or as approved by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, or consistent with strategic direction set by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, to eligible people to help them move into and retain employment.

Improving Work-Readiness Outcomes

This category is limited to providing assistance, services and other interventions, including associated administrative expenses, either in accordance with delegated legislation made under the Social Security Act 2018, or as approved by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, or consistent with strategic direction set by Cabinet or the appropriation Minister, to eligible people to address barriers to employment to help them become work-ready.

Jobs and Skills Hubs

This category is limited to expenses incurred in establishing, operating and administering jobs and skills hubs to work with employers to facilitate job brokerage and training.

Non-Departmental Output Expenses*He Poutama Rangatahi*

This category is limited to supporting training and employment programmes for young people not in education, employment or training and at risk of poor labour market outcomes in the long-term.

Pacific employment and training programmes

This category is limited to expenses incurred on employment and training programmes that support Pacific Peoples.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	1,159,520	3,990	1,163,510
Departmental Output Expenses			
Administering Income Support	436,668	1,265	437,933
Improving Employment Outcomes	563,520	430	563,950
Improving Work-Readiness Outcomes	116,514	-	116,514
Jobs and Skills Hubs	7,054	-	7,054
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
He Poutama Rangatahi	33,368	-	33,368
Pacific employment and training programmes	2,396	2,295	4,691
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	1,120,156	548	1,120,704
Administering Income Support	433,068	118	433,186
Improving Employment Outcomes	563,520	430	563,950
Improving Work-Readiness Outcomes	116,514	-	116,514
Jobs and Skills Hubs	7,054	-	7,054
Revenue from Others	3,600	1,147	4,747
Administering Income Support	3,600	1,147	4,747

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

	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Pacific employment and training programmes			
Complete the service design and procurement of providers for the Alo Vaka employment programme by 30 June 2026 (see Disclosure 1)	New measure	Achieved	Achieved

Disclosure 1 - A measure has been added to this category to cover the transfer of the Alo Vaka programme funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to MSD on 1 January 2026. This deliverable-based measure has been chosen to reflect the first stage of implementing the refreshed programme for 2025/26, with outcome-based measurement added for 2026/27 once it is fully operational. Alo Vaka supports Pacific Jobseeker Support recipients who have extensive barriers preventing them from employment to build the skills required to overcome these barriers, and transition them into meaningful, sustainable employment.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$3.990 million to \$1,163.510 million for 2025/26 due to:

- the transfer of the Alo Vaka programme to Vote Social Development for \$2.725 million, which supports Pacific Jobseeker Support recipients
- a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$1.147 million for lease costs funded by other agencies and third parties, and
- a capital to operating swap of \$118,000 to fund the additional operating costs of an office relocation in Lower Hutt.

Partnering for Youth Development (M77) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to improve outcomes for young people through youth development.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Administering Youth Development

This category is limited to developing, promoting and funding a positive youth development approach in partnership with businesses, iwi and the philanthropic and youth sectors.

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Delivering Youth Development

This category is limited to purchasing youth development outcomes.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	18,481	(1,400)	17,081
Departmental Output Expenses			
Administering Youth Development	3,882	100	3,982
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Delivering Youth Development	14,599	(1,500)	13,099

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	3,690	100	3,790
Administering Youth Development	3,690	100	3,790
Revenue from Others	192	-	192
Administering Youth Development	192	-	192

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$1.400 million to \$17.081 million for 2025/26 due to an expense transfer of \$1.500 million to 2026/27 for the Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund.

This is offset by an increase of \$100,000 due to a fiscally neutral adjustment to the Ministry's departmental appropriations due to changes in cost drivers in 2025/26.

Redress for Abuse in Care (M63) (A25)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to enable the Government's response to redress recommendations made by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Delivering redress for abuse in care

This category is limited to responding to, designing, implementing and delivering redress for abuse in care

Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Support Services

This category is limited to providing third party support services to people who report experiencing abuse in state care.

Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Redress Payments

This category is limited to providing financial redress to people who experienced abuse in state care.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	75,334	32,521	107,855
Departmental Output Expenses			
Delivering redress for abuse in care	24,184	5,922	30,106
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Support Services	12,150	2,000	14,150
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Redress Payments	39,000	24,599	63,599
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	24,184	5,922	30,106
Delivering redress for abuse in care	24,184	5,922	30,106

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$32.521 million to \$107.855 million for 2025/26 due to the in-year expense transfer of underspends from 2024/25 for delivering redress for abuse in care.