

The Treasury

Budget 2021 Information Release

August 2021

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Cabinet Document Details

Title: **Cabinet Minute: CAB-21-MIN-0116.07: 2021 Budget Package: Vote Courts**

Date: **12 April 2021**

Creator: Cabinet Office

No Information has been Withheld

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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2021 Budget Package: Vote Courts

On 12 April 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2021 Budget package, as listed in the summary below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

Summary of initiatives included in the attached initiative documents:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
13488	Consistent Access to Justice Through Effective Scheduling Across the District Court and Tribunals	-	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437
13054	Continuing the Interpreter and Communication Assistance Services to Maintain Access to Justice	-	1.330	1.485	1.611	1.718	1.718
13509	Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry	-	0.599	-	-	-	-
13060	Ensuring Ongoing Access to the Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
13034	Maintaining the Justice System Through Addressing the Depreciation Impacts of Property Revaluations	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359
13492	Safeguarding Child Wellbeing and Building a Strong Foundation for Change in the Family Justice System	-	0.608	2.662	4.843	6.968	6.968
13056	Supporting the Elimination of Indefinite Compulsory Treatment Orders Under the Mental Health Act 1992	-	-	-	2.629	2.219	1.195
13057	Supporting the Tenancy Tribunal to Manage Pressures Arising from Rental Law Reforms, to Better Support New Zealanders	-	0.764	1.376	1.371	1.371	1.371
13049	Whakaorangia te Mana Tangata – Uplifting the Mana of Offenders, Victims and Whānau	-	1.827	1.779	1.456	1.346	1.346
Total Operating		6.859	13.424	15.598	20.206	21.918	20.894

- 2 **approved** changes to appropriations to implement the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
- 3 **approved** the additional recommendations to give effect to the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
- 4 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2020/21 above be included in the 2020/21 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Appropriation Minister to approve jointly any technical adjustments to baselines necessary to remove any errors or inconsistencies identified while finalising the 2020/21 Supplementary Estimates, the 2021/22 Estimates and the fiscal forecasts;
- 6 **noted** that all communications relating to the 2021 Budget are co-ordinated by a Budget communications committee, and that any requests for early announcement will need to have both the written approval of the Minister of Finance and sign-off from the Prime Minister's office.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Consistent Access to Justice Through Effective Scheduling Across the District Court and Tribunals

Description: This initiative will provide ongoing funding for the National Scheduling Team, which supports effective and efficient scheduling for District Courts and Tribunals across New Zealand. Efficient scheduling is necessary to maximise access to justice for participants in criminal and civil procedures. This initiative will also mitigate backlogs affecting the remand population, which is a priority for the Justice sector.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437
Total Operating	-	1.437	1.437	1.437	1.437

Initiative No: 13054

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Continuing the Interpreter and Communication Assistance Services to Maintain Access to Justice

Description: This initiative provides additional funding to cover increasing demand for the Interpreter and Communication Assistance services. These services support equitable access for people who are otherwise unable to participate effectively in court and tribunal proceedings, and are guaranteed in legislation.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	1.330	1.485	1.611	1.718
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1.330	1.485	1.611	1.718

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.330	1.485	1.611	1.718
Total Operating	-	1.330	1.485	1.611	1.718

Initiative No: 13509

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Description: This initiative provides funding to ensure the Crown can continue to engage with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care in a timely, collaborative and coordinated manner. This will be achieved through continued funding for a Secretariat to drive the coordinated Crown approach, legal support for representation, specialist records support, training and support to non-governmental organisations and Crown entities, and support for affected staff. The funding will ensure the Crown's response is proportionate to the Inquiry's scale.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	0.599	-	-	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.599	-	-	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.404	-	-	-
Senior Courts Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.195	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)	-	0.599	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	0.599	-	-	-

Additional recommendation

- 7 **noted** that there is associated operating funding in Vote Internal Affairs (Initiative 13508), Vote Education (Initiative 13546), Vote Health (Initiative 13525), Vote Justice (Initiative 13510), Vote Oranga Tamariki (Initiative 13069) and Vote Māori Development (Initiative 13547);

Initiative No: 13060**Vote:** Courts**Appropriation Administrator:** Ministry of Justice**Title:** Ensuring Ongoing Access to the Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund**Description:** The initiative provides sufficient funding for specialist professional services that support the Māori Land Court in its decision-making and the Court's participants in overcoming barriers to retaining and/or developing their land.**Appropriation changes**

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Court and Coroner Related Costs	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Total Operating	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500

Initiative No: 13034

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Maintaining the Justice System Through Addressing the Depreciation Impacts of Property Revaluations

Description: This initiative aims to improve enduring trust in the rule of law by consistently addressing the depreciation impacts of property revaluations.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359
Total Operating	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359	6.359

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Safeguarding Child Wellbeing and Building a Strong Foundation for Change in the Family Justice System

Description: This initiative will safeguard child wellbeing when parents are separating or unable to agree caregiving arrangements by establishing a Family Court Associate (FCA) role. The FCA role will enable faster resolution of disputes in the Family Court by reducing the administrative burden of judges and registrars.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	0.608	2.662	4.843	6.968
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.608	2.662	4.843	6.968

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.608	2.662	4.843	6.968
Total Operating	-	0.608	2.662	4.843	6.968

Initiative No: 13056

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Supporting the Elimination of Indefinite Compulsory Treatment Orders Under the Mental Health Act 1992

Description: This initiative will fund the costs of increased numbers of independent Mental Health review hearings required to be heard by the Family Court, due to the elimination of indefinite compulsory treatment orders.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	-	-	2.629	2.219	1.195
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	2.629	2.219	1.195

	\$m - increase/(decrease)					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expense:						
District Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances (PLA)	-	-	-	0.602	0.602	0.602
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:						
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)						
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>						
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	-	-	2.027	1.617	0.593
Total Operating	-	-	-	2.629	2.219	1.195

Additional recommendation

8 **noted** that there is associated operating funding in Vote Justice (Initiative 13490);

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Supporting the Tenancy Tribunal to Manage Pressures Arising from Rental Law Reforms, to Better Support New Zealanders

Description: This initiative provides additional funding to cover increasing costs and demand arising from the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2020.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	0.764	1.376	1.371	1.371
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.764	1.376	1.371	1.371

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Tribunal Related Fees and Expenses	-	0.139	0.238	0.238	0.238
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.625	1.138	1.133	1.133
Total Operating	-	0.764	1.376	1.371	1.371

Initiative No: 13049

Vote: Courts

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

Title: Whakaorangia te Mana Tangata – Uplifting the Mana of Offenders, Victims and Whānau

Description: This initiative aims to reduce the imprisonment and re-offending rates for Māori by providing funding to implement a kaitiaki-type service modelled on the Kaikohe Matariki Court. Under the Whakaorangia programme, local iwi and Māori organisations will support the needs of Māori offenders, victims and their whānau by identifying and providing suitable social, health and wellbeing services.

Appropriation changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	1.827	1.779	1.456	1.346
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1.827	1.779	1.456	1.346

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
District Court Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.827	1.779	1.456	1.346
Total Operating	-	1.827	1.779	1.456	1.346

Additional recommendation

9 **noted** that there is associated operating funding in Vote Justice (Initiative 13489).