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No information has been withheld.

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Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Extending Increased Supports under Mana in Mahi

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 1 June 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in June 2020, Cabinet agreed to expand Mana in Mahi out to 4 August 2022 as part of the Apprenticeship Support Programme [CAB-20-MIN-0280];
- 2 **noted** that in June 2020, Cabinet also agreed to the following adjustments to the Mana in Mahi programme, to:
 - 2.1 increase the wage subsidy to up to \$16,000 for first year participants and up to \$8,000 for second year participants;
 - 2.2 extend the period of time that current Mana in Mahi participants will be supported through the programme from 12 months to up to 24 months, depending on the length of a participant's pathway;
 - 2.3 pay for course fees for a participant's training pathway, where participants are not eligible for Fees Free or the Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund, up to a total of \$16,000 over two years;
 - 2.4 provide additional education support of up to \$2,000 per annum to cover the cost of required literacy and numeracy training or equipment to work or study from home;
 - 2.5 expand the focus of the Mana in Mahi programme to anyone at risk of long-term benefit receipt, regardless of age;

[CAB-20-MIN-0280]
- 3 **agreed** that from 5 August 2022 to 4 August 2024, Mana in Mahi will maintain a service offering at current first-year settings as a one-year programme, including the following adjusted settings:
 - 3.1 a wage subsidy of up to \$16,000 payable over one year;
 - 3.2 support Mana in Mahi participants through the programme for up to one year;
 - 3.3 provide payment of course fees for a participant's training pathway, where they are not eligible for Fees Free, the Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund or any other government-provided fees free initiative, of up to \$8,000 over one year;

- 3.4 provide additional educational support of up to \$2,000 over one year to cover additional study costs such as literacy and numeracy training or equipment to work or study from home;
- 4 **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) received \$10.908 million across 2022/23 and 2023/24 through Budget 2022 to support delivery of the settings outlined in paragraph 3 above;
- 5 **noted** that Mana in Mahi will retain a target cohort of anyone at risk of long-term benefit receipt, regardless of age (who meet the age eligibility requirements set out in the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme) and provide:
- 5.1 pastoral care support, including online and phone counselling, goal-based coaching, and virtual mentoring;
- 5.2 incentive payments to participants totalling \$3,000 over one year (\$1,000 per payment);
- 5.3 up to \$2,000 at the start of a participant's contract to cover pre-employment and in-work support;
- 6 **noted** that reducing provision of Mana in Mahi support to one year will allow alignment with other MSD employment support products, respond to participant demand, and enhance cost effectiveness;
- 7 **noted** that Mana in Mahi sits within a wider system of trades training and employment supports and there are benefits in retaining higher levels of support for Mana in Mahi because of the targeted nature of the intervention;
- 8 **noted** that in December 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee agreed to re-prioritise \$21.8 million of Flexi-Wage expansion funding to Mana in Mahi in 2021/22 to support an additional 1,000 placements that year (up to 2,000 placements in total) [SWC-21-MIN-0225];
- 9 **noted** that the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme will be amended to reflect the changes to Mana in Mahi settings, as the Programme provides legal authority to make Mana in Mahi payments;
- 10 [33]

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC