

Projects and Workstreams Relevant to Reducing Poverty or Offsetting its Effects: MSD Policy Cluster Response

Name of project or workstream	Description	Portfolio
White Paper for Vulnerable Children	Will consider a number of potentially fundamental policy and system changes to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and keep them safe. The Green Paper identified poverty as an issue that will need to be considered in developing the White Paper.	Social Development
Welfare reform	Fundamentally reforming the benefits system, including changes to benefit categories, work expectations for more people and a fundamental shift to a long-term approach to investing in people to reduce welfare dependence. The Government has already made decisions on most of the welfare reform package. Decisions have not been taken in the area of supplementary (eg Accommodation Supplement) and hardship assistance.	Social Development
Debt and Overpayment	Focusing on reducing debt and overpayments in the benefit system.	Social development
Youth pipeline	Improving the effectiveness of services targeted at 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment, or training.	Social Development
Employment of young people: further options	Development of proposals to further reduce youth unemployment.	Social Development
Services for young people	Delivering services targeted at 16 to 24 year olds to break the cycle of poverty.	Youth Development
Poverty monitoring and reporting	Programme of work encompassing reporting on both income-based measures of poverty, broader measures of hardship based on non-income measures and analysis of the incidence of poverty across population groups in New Zealand and international comparisons.	Social Development
Integrated services for vulnerable / struggling families	Reviewing a range of integrated services for vulnerable and/or struggling families e.g. Integrated Service Response, Strengthening Families, Early Years Hubs etc.	Social Development
Annual Adjustment	Each year the rates of NZ Superannuation, benefits and various allowances are CPI increased to ensure the rates do not have their real value reduced over time.	Social Development
Hardship Assistance	A range of financial assistance is available to help low income people who have immediate and essentials needs.	Social Development