

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Child Poverty Reduction Proactive Release March 2018

The document below is one of a suite of documents released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) that formed the basis of decisions on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill introduced on 31 January 2018.

Some parts of this document would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Date: 29 November 2017

Title: Consultation for the Child Poverty Bill.

Information withheld with relevant section(s) of the Act:

Paragraph 9
s 9(2)(a) – privacy of natural person.



Report

Date: 29 November 2017

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

Consultation for the Child Poverty Bill

Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper provides you with further advice on consultation with Maori on the policy proposals relating to your Child Poverty Bill.

Background

- 2 Last week we provided you with advice on a Maori and Treaty of Waitangi perspective on your proposed Child Poverty Bill. We noted that while MSD had undertaken some consultation, the extent of this was limited due to the timeframes involved.
- 3 You indicated that you were prepared to delay the timeframe for introduction of the Bill until January (still within the 100 day period) to enable further consultation to occur. We will use this time to engage more broadly than has been possible to date to better inform Cabinet's final decisions.
- 4 The extra time will still afford only relatively small scale and targeted consultation before the legislation is introduced. However, we think this is reasonable here given the importance of the issue, the general consensus that action is needed, the fact that there will be a full select committee process, and that it is the strategies that will drive outcomes/reduction in poverty – this is where the interest groups can contribute the most to decision-making and outcomes.

What to consult on

- 5 On our current timeframes, Cabinet would agree the policy content of the Bill on 11 December, and it would be appropriate to consult people following that.
- 6 One option for consultation is to have an exposure draft of the Bill available to consult on, but because of the timeframes involved, and because Cabinet will not have considered the draft Bill until January, we do not see that as feasible. In any case, it is more important to consult on the policy informing the Bill rather than the Bill itself. Consulting on a Bill that is likely to be refined and redrafted prior to introduction to the House risks distracting consultees from the core policy issues and the consultation becoming unwieldy.
- 7 As an alternative, and to demonstrate good faith, we suggest consulting on the basis of the policy content agreed by Cabinet, augmented by relevant sections of the Bill when these are available. This consultation would be limited to the matters of content in the Bill, in the knowledge that there will be opportunities for more fulsome engagement on the targets themselves and on the content of the child wellbeing strategy. This is a more targeted approach to consultation which fits better with the constrained timeframes of the 100 Day Plan.
- 8 The information gathered from this consultation would be used to inform Cabinet's final decisions on the shape of the legislation in late January.

Who to consult

- 9 The additional time will be used to continue working closely with MSD's internal Maori reference group and Te Puni Kokiri. TPK will guide who the Crown will target for consultation. We expect to consult with Maori representative groups with a demonstrated interest in child poverty, and who are likely to have an interest in the legislation itself. This could include relevant national and regional Maori organisations such as: the Maori Women's Welfare League, iwi organisations, Maori Urban Authorities, the Whanau Ora commissioning agencies, and subject experts such as s9(2)(a) MSD also has an external Māori reference group, which includes social service providers, which could be used.
- 10 It may also be useful to ask other Government Ministers for suggestions as part of Ministerial consultation on the paper.

When to consult

- 11 The window for consultation is fairly limited, with probably three weeks available. We propose that DPMC take the lead on facilitating this consultation, with support from subject matter experts from MSD and MVCOT.

Week of	M	T	W	T	F
27/11		Feedback from PM Start consultation	Departmental consultation closes		Draft Cabinet paper to Ministers for consultation
4/12		Paper lodged for CBC	CBC considers paper		
11/12	CAB considers paper	Consultation with Maori and other key stakeholders			
18/12	Spare week available for Cabinet if changes are required Consultation				
25/12 – 8/1	Christmas/ New Year period				
15/1	Consultation with Maori with Maori and other key stakeholders				
22/1	Bill agreed by Cabinet				
29/1		Bill introduced			

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

Note the proposed approach to consultation with Maori proposed in this paper

Nic Blakeley
Deputy Chief Executive
Ministry of Social Development

Date

Approved for release by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction