



Cabinet

CAB Min (09) 31/5A

Copy No:

Minute of Decision

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Government Commitment to Building Strong Community Relationships

Portfolio: Community and Voluntary Sector

On 31 August 2009, following reference from the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in May 2009, Cabinet noted that the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector intended to provide a report to SOC in August 2009 that would:
 - 1.1 outline proposals for developing public servants' skills in community engagement;
 - 1.2 outline a review of the Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community-Government Relationship 2001;
 - 1.3 seek advice on a national community-government forum in November 2009 to address issues arising out of the above work;

[SOC Min (09) 9/5]
- 2 **noted** that strong community-government relationships and effective community engagement are important to achieving government goals;
- 3 **agreed** that the national Community-Government Forum in November 2009 will discuss development of a Relationship Agreement to replace the 2001 *Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community-Government Relationship*;
- 4 **noted** that the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development will convene a regular chief executives' forum to ensure high-level leadership on practical actions to address persistent issues in the community-government relationship;
- 5 **agreed** that the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, assisted by the State Services Commission and Te Puni Kokiri, and in consultation with the Treasury and Office of the Auditor-General, will assess how community relationships can be included in wider work around improving and measuring government performance by 30 November 2010;
- 6 **agreed** that the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector and Cabinet Office work to clarify guidance in the *CabGuide* regarding consultation with community and voluntary organisations on policy proposals;

- 7 **noted** that during 2009/10 and 2010/11 the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector will work with government agencies and the community and voluntary sector to develop:
- 7.1 a set of Principles for Effective Engagement with citizens and communities;
 - 7.2 a quick reference guide for government agencies on organisational processes that can support implementation of the principles;
 - 7.3 seminars on good practice in engagement in a range of locations, including collaboration with Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Office for Ethnic Affairs, and the Office for Disability Issues;
 - 7.4 a guide to employee volunteering that will help government agencies to support staff in gaining community experience;
 - 7.5 a Code of Funding Practice to assist implementation of good funding practice;
- 8 **noted** that the Ombudsmen's Office will work with the Association of Non-Government Organisations of Aotearoa to promote the role and services of the Ombudsmen across the community and voluntary sector by December 2009;
- 9 **noted** that the State Services Commission is reviewing appropriate arrangements for building knowledge of online participation processes during 2009/10;
- 10 **noted** that the Department of Internal Affairs will promote to government agencies the public consultations function of <http://newzealand.govt.nz>;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector has referred consideration of a possible Treaty of Waitangi Commission to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Maori Affairs for consideration;
- 12 **noted** that Statistics New Zealand will convene an advisory group including community and voluntary sector experts to provide technical advice on the second Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account by 2012;
- 13 **invited** the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector to report to SOC by 30 November 2010 on progress made in addressing the work programme in paragraphs 3-11 above, and to seek endorsement of:
- 13.1 a community-government Relationship Agreement (paragraph 3);
 - 13.2 Principles for Effective Engagement with citizens and communities (paragraph 7.1);
- 14 **noted** that, following consideration by Cabinet, the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector intends to make the paper under SOC (09) 76 publicly available on the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector website.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (09) 488; SOC Min (09) 19/4

Secretary's note: This minute replaces SOC Min (09) 19/4. Cabinet amended paragraph 6.

Distribution (see over):

