



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Mental Health Act Reform

**Portfolio**                      **Health**

On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1        **noted** that, in December 2018, Cabinet directed the Ministry of Health to provide options on scope, timeframes, and resourcing required to reform the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 (the Act) [CAB-18-MIN-0621];
- 2        **noted** that reform of the Act will ensure New Zealand's legislation is fit-for-purpose and uphold New Zealanders' rights, and is a critical component of the government's commitment to transform the approach to mental wellbeing;
- 3        **noted** the work already under way across government to incorporate stronger emphasis on protecting and respecting individual human rights;
- 4        **noted** that in May 2019, Cabinet agreed to the recommendations of the *He Ara Oranga: Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction*, which included the full repeal and replacement of the Act [CAB-19-MIN-0182];
- 5        **agreed** to the following set of high-level principles to guide the policy development for repealing and replacing the Act, and the process of transforming New Zealand's approach to mental health and addiction:
  - 5.1      a human rights approach;
  - 5.2      maximum independence; inclusion in society; and safety of individuals, their whānau and the community;
  - 5.3      Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
  - 5.4      improved equity of care and treatment;
  - 5.5      recovery approach to care and treatment;
  - 5.6      timely service access and choice;
  - 5.7      provision of least restrictive mental health care;
  - 5.8      respect for family and whānau;

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

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**directed** officials across government to work together in the development of detailed policy proposals;

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9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

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9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

Gerrard Carter  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

- Hon Phil Twyford
- Hon Chris Hipkins
- Hon Andrew Little
- Hon Dr David Clark
- Hon Nanaia Mahuta
- Hon Stuart Nash
- Hon Tracey Martin (Chair)
- Hon Peeni Henare
- Jan Logie, MP

**Officials present from:**

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

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Health

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