



HEI WHAKATAU | BRIEFING

Finalising arrangements for further support to Māori and Pacific community responses to Omicron

Date:	18 February 2022	Priority	High
Classification	In Confidence	Tracking Number	44735

Action sought	Date action required by
1. Agree the recommendations in this paper.	21 February 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Mobile	1 st contact
Geoff Short	Hautū, Te Puni Kaupapa Here	9(2)(6a)(i)	√
Erin Keenan	Kaiwhakahaere, Pāpori, Te Puna Oranga		

Other Agencies Consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> MBIE	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Te Arawhiti	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MoH
<input type="checkbox"/> MHUD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other				

Attachments	No attachments
--------------------	----------------

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments:

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



18 February 2022

Minister of Finance
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
Minister for Covid-19 Response
Minita mō Whānau Ora / Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)
Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Minister for Pacific Peoples / Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Health)

Finalising arrangements for further support for Māori and Pacific community responses to Omicron

Purpose

1. This paper seeks approval to the financial arrangements delegated to authorising Ministers by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) on 16 February 2022, relating to funding for support to Māori and Pacific community responses to Omicron.

Comment

2. On 14 February 2022, Cabinet considered the paper *Covid-19 Response: Further support for Māori and Pacific community responses to Omicron*, which sought funding to support vulnerable Māori and Pacific whānau through community-led preparations and responses to Omicron during Phases Two and Three. Cabinet referred the paper to SWC for consideration on 16 February 2022, providing them with the power to act [CAB-22-MIN-0027].
3. SWC agreed to the following four pathways for additional supports for prevention and preparedness to vulnerable Māori and Pacific communities, to be progressed as complementary to the Care in the Community (CIC) health and welfare approaches:
 1. direct funding injections through the Ministry of Health to Māori and Pacific health providers to the end of December 2022;
 2. provision through Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies;
 3. to build on the Māori Communities Covid-19 Fund (MCCF) by providing direct funding through to regions to support at risk whānau to access available health and welfare approaches, administered by Te Puni Kōkiri in coordination with Te Arawhiti; and
 4. funding for Pacific Aotearoa Community Outreach initiative (PACO), led by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, to support Pacific communities [SWC-22-MIN-0013].
4. SWC agreed that that the expenses incurred as a result of funding the four pathways be charged against the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund.
5. Of the four pathways, SWC agreed to fund the three Whanau Ora Commissioning Agencies up to \$40.6 million over the next four months; and agreed to fund the PACO programme to a total of \$18 million. SWC further agreed to extend the Karawhiua communications campaign to the end of 2022, at a cost of \$1.75 million.

Decisions sought in this paper

6. SWC authorised the relevant Ministers to agree the final amounts for the funding pathways 1, and 3, and any final administrative requirements for the funding.
7. This briefing seeks Ministers' agreement to the final funding amounts for pathways 1 and 3, and on the basis of those decisions, approval from the Minister of Finance to changes to appropriations to reflect the decisions in the submission under SWC-22-MIN-0013.
8. We note that SWC authorised the Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health) and the Minister of Finance to agree the final amount for the funding for Māori health providers, and authorised the Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Health) and the Minister of Finance to agree the final amount for the funding for Pacific health providers. As the Minister for Covid-19 response is required to approve changes to the those appropriations, his agreement is also sought through this paper.
9. Authorised Ministers will receive further advice to the final administrative requirements for each of the funding pathways by 28 February 2022.

Financial requirements

Pathway 1: Māori and Pacific health providers

10. SWC acknowledged that providers will need additional funding to support the response to Omicron. The proposed funding was based on a 'medium' funding scenario, until 30 June 2022, and was proposed to support Māori and Pacific health providers to increase their capacity and capability to deliver services. The scope of activity would remain the same, and continue to exclude kai packs and other activity already provided through the Care in the Community approach.
11. Ministers discussed extending funding out until 31 December 2022, using the existing assumptions, to align with other contracts for Māori and Pacific health providers. Ministers asked officials to identify the costs and revise the costs for individual funding pathways to enable the extension and alignment of contracts to occur. The Ministry of Health has undertaken this work. The extension of contracts will cost a further \$19.8 million, bringing the total cost to \$39.6 million (over 10 months).
12. To support these activities, funding proposed for Māori and Pacific health providers, is based on a medium funding scenario:

	Funding recommended	Assumptions
Māori health providers	\$29.6M for 10 months to 31 December 2022	Approximately 160 Māori health providers expected to be funded (based on review of current Covid-19 contracts which are in place to October 2022). Of these expect 30% to be considered large, 40% medium and 30% small in size. It is estimated providers will need a further funding boost of \$125,000-\$350,000 each on average depending on their size, to complement the services already underway.

Pacific health providers	\$10.0M for 10 months to 31 December 2022	Allocated to Pacific health providers outside of the Northern region, based on provider size.
---------------------------------	---	---

13. To confirm any final administrative arrangements for the funding, the Ministry of Health will seek agreement:
 1. from the Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health) and the Minister of Finance on any final administrative requirements for the funding for Māori health providers; and
 2. from the Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Health) and the Minister of Finance on any final administrative requirements for the funding for Pacific health providers.
14. Following approval, the Ministry of Health will ensure that funding is distributed to Māori and Pacific providers through the most direct contractual arrangements possible (such as extending current contracts through variations). The end dates for services will be aligned between contracts for Māori and Pacific providers as part of the respective contractual arrangements.
15. Given that there is uncertainty around how Omicron will impact communities in the coming months, it is possible that the full funding directed to Māori and Pacific health providers will not need to be utilised for the purpose of responding to the current outbreak.
16. In the event that the Covid-19 cases as part of the Omicron outbreak are managed down prior to the end of December 2022, the funding will be able to be redirected towards other Covid-19 outbreaks (if necessary), and health services that support whānau/families to cope with the impact Covid-19 outbreak. Examples where funding could be redirected include targeted mental health services, catch up health consultations that have been deferred as a result of Covid-19, general immunisations, and other recognised health priorities for Māori and Pacific populations that make them more at-risk of having severe illness from Covid-19.
17. The Ministry of Health will remain in close contact with providers as the Omicron outbreak progresses to gauge the level of funding needed to address this outbreak. It will be important that all providers are tasked with focusing on addressing the same priority. The Ministry of Health has indicated that it will provide contractual flexibility for this to occur and will seek any agreement from delegated Ministers on any additional priorities as part of agreeing the final arrangements.

Pathway 3: Building on the MCCF

18. SWC agreed to provide funding focussed on supporting iwi, hapū and Māori and communities, including direct funding through to regions to supporting at risk whānau to access available health and welfare approaches. Authorisation is sought for \$40.05 million over four months.
19. Funding decisions will be through Te Arawhiti and Te Puni Kōkiri, who will work with Regional Leadership Groups to identify need in a streamlined manner. This will ensure that, where possible, the additional funding will focus on existing providers, extending existing contracts where appropriate.
20. Agencies supporting the MCCF (Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Arawhiti, Ministry of Health and MSD), will continue to work together to ensure the goals of the MCCF remain are kept consistent with any changes to the public health response arising any further shifts in the approach to Covid-

19. SWC agreed to delegate financial decision-making to the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and Te Puni Kōkiri.

21. Officials are working on an approach to operationalise Pathway 3 funding to build on the MCCF, and relevant Ministers will receive a decision paper on this next week. Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti will seek agreement from the Minister of Finance, Minister for Māori-Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development to approve the approach for funding that builds on the current settings for the MCCF, with agreement needed to the appropriate levels of delegation for funding decisions and any regional allocation considerations. This may include the potential for MCCF funding to extend into 2022/23.

Next Steps

22. If you authorise these changes, adjustments will be made to funding allocations as discussed above, and communications will be released by Ministers offices.

23. Further advice on administrative arrangements will be received by Ministers by 28 February 2022. Advice to the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Whānau Ora on the administrative arrangements for Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies funding will also be provided shortly.

Consultation

24. The Treasury, Te Arawhiti, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development have been consulted. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

Recommended Action

25. It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** that on Wednesday 16 February, SWC:

- a) agreed that Māori and Pacific health providers be funded through to the end of December 2022;
- b) authorised relevant Ministers to agree the final amount for the funding referred to in paragraph a) and any final administrative requirements for the funding for Māori and Pacific health providers;
- c) noted that Whānau Ora provides wraparound and holistic support for whānau with complex needs, including tāngata whaikaha, preventing and lessening the need of whānau to rely on crisis responses, and navigating whānau to accessing health and welfare systems and supports, including CIC;
- d) agreed to fund the three Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies up to \$40.6 million over the next four months to support these activities during Omicron Phases Two and Three;
- e) authorised the Minister for Whānau Ora and the Minister of Finance to approve any final administrative requirements for paragraph d) above;
- f) agreed to provide funding focussed on supporting iwi, hapū and Māori and communities, including direct funding through to regions to supporting at risk whānau to access available health and welfare approaches;

- g) authorised the Minister of Finance, Minister for Māori-Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Minister for Māori Development to agree the amount for the funding referred to in paragraph f) and the approach for funding that builds on the MCCF, including appropriate levels of delegation for funding decisions;
- h) agreed to fund the Pacific Aotearoa Community Outreach programme to a total of \$18 million to be delivered by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples;
- i) agreed to extend the Karawhiua campaign to the end of 2022, at a cost of \$1.75 million, so that communications and information to mobilise Māori whānau may be updated to reach the most vulnerable communities, including tangata whaikaha, in light of the Omicron variant;
- j) authorised the Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Ministers of Maori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, Whanau Ora, Maori Development, and Pacific Peoples, to approve changes to appropriations to reflect the decisions in the submission under SWC-22-MIN-0013;
2. **agree** that Māori health providers be funded through to the end of December 2022 at a cost of \$29.6 million over ten months;
- Minister of Finance** Yes / No
Minister for COVID-19 Response Yes / No
Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health) Yes / No
3. **agree** that Pacific health providers be funded through to the end of December 2022 at a cost of \$10.0 million over ten months;
- Minister of Finance** Yes / No
Minister for COVID-19 Response Yes / No
Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Health) Yes / No
4. **agree** to provide funding of \$40.05 million for the policy outlined in paragraph 1(f) above;
- Minister of Finance** Yes / No
Minister Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Yes / No
Minister for Māori Development Yes / No
5. **approve** the following changes to appropriations to provide for 1(f), 1, (h), 1(i), 2, 3 and 4, with corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Vote Māori Development					
Minister for Māori Development					
Multi-category appropriation: Māori Communities COVID-19 Fund	40.050	-	-	-	-
Non-Departmental Output Expense: Māori Omicron Response					

<p>Departmental Output Expense:</p> <p>Te whakatīnānātanga o ngā wawata ā-pāpori, ā-ōhanga, ā-whakawhanaketanga ahurea o te iwi Māori Realising the social, economic and cultural development aspirations of Māori</p> <p>(funded by Revenue Crown)</p>	0.385	1.365	-	-	-
<p>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</p> <p>Whakamahi i ngā Huanga a Whānau Ora Commissioning Whānau Ora Outcomes</p>	40.600	-	-	-	-
<p>Vote Health</p> <p>Minister for COVID-19 Response</p>					
<p>Multi-category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: National Response to COVID-19 Across the Health Sector</p> <p>Non-Departmental Output Expense: COVID-19 Public Health Response</p>	14.800	14.800	-	-	-
<p>Vote Health</p> <p>Minister for COVID-19 Response</p>					
<p>Multi-category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: National Response to COVID-19 Across the Health Sector</p> <p>Non-Departmental Output Expense: COVID-19 Public Health Response</p>	5.000	5.000	-	-	-
<p>Vote Pacific Peoples</p> <p>Minister for Pacific Peoples</p>					
<p>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policy Advice and Ministerial Servicing MCA:</p> <p>Departmental Output Expense: Communications, Projects, and Relationships</p>	5.000	13.000	-	-	-

(funded by Revenue Crown)					
Total Operating	105.835	34.165	-	-	-

Minister of Finance

Yes / No

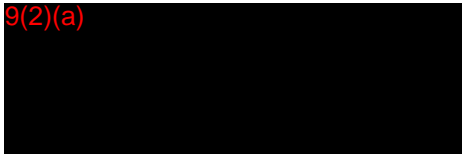
6. **agree** that the changes to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;

Minister of Finance

Yes / No

7. **note** that authorised Ministers will agree to the final administrative requirements for each of the funding pathways by 28 February 2022.

9(2)(a)



Geoff Short
Hautū, Te Puni Kaupapa Here | Deputy Secretary, Policy Partnerships

Hon Grant Robertson Minister of Finance	Hon Kelvin Davis Minister for Crown Māori Relations
Date: ____ / ____ / 2022	Date: ____ / ____ / 2022

Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for Covid-19 Response	Hon Peeni Henare Minita mō Whānau Ora
Date: ____ / ____ / 2022	Date: ____ / ____ / 2022

Hon Willie Jackson Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori	Hon Aupito William Sio Minister for Pacific Peoples
Date: ____ / ____ / 2022	Date: ____ / ____ / 2022