

10. UPDATE ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS - JULY

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The purpose of this report is to update committee members of recent government policy announcements which will impact on areas of concern to the Community Services Committee

BOOST FOR BUSINESS AND REGIONS

Deputy Prime Minister Jim Anderton launched the 'Partnership for Growth' programmes. The three initiatives are:

- A Regional Partnerships Programme which will deliver grants to regions of up to \$100,000 to develop plans and initiatives to make the most of their unique strengths and competitive advantages. Up to \$2 million per region will be made available to implement regional strategies and initiatives.
- An Enterprise Awards scheme which offers financial support of up to \$10,000 to innovative entrepreneurs and small businesses to help them test and develop concepts with strong growth potential.
- An Investment Ready Scheme which will deliver skills training and assistance to business and entrepreneurs seeking finance and venture capital for innovative concepts.

The Ministry of Economic Development is establishing and managing the programmes on behalf of Industry New Zealand until it is formally established in September.

\$4 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Education Minister Trevor Mallard released details of a \$4 million plus programme to attract high quality people into the teaching profession. The programme makes 405 scholarships of \$10,000 each available to selected teacher trainees.

A focus of this year's scholarship programme is to increase the number of secondary teachers in the key shortage areas of physics, maths, and information and communications technology. (There is reportedly an international shortage of secondary teachers of maths. Teachers of physics, computing and physical education are anticipated to be in short supply over the next few years).

Trevor Mallard announced the following categories and numbers of teacher scholarships available:

- 100 scholarships for Maori graduates
- 50 for Maori non-graduates
- 55 for people to train as Maori-medium teachers
- 50 for people to train as Maori language teachers
- 50 for Pacific graduates

- 25 for Pacific non-graduates
- 30 for graduates to train as secondary maths teachers
- 10 for graduates to train as secondary ICT teachers
- 10 for graduates to train as secondary physical education teachers
- 10 for graduates to train as secondary physics teachers
- 15 for people to train and then teach in rural areas where teacher shortages exist.

Applicants may apply for more than one scholarship. These will be promoted by the TeachNZ unit of the Ministry of Education throughout July and August. Applications for the scholarships close on 4 September. Successful applicants must enter teaching training by the end of 2001.

The TeachNZ programme also includes active face-to-face recruitment of Maori and Pacific people in their communities as well as a broad information campaign to involved education groups.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR COMPUTERS IN HOMES PROJECT

Fifty families in Porirua and South Auckland will be part of a pilot for a new Computers in Homes project, Education Minister Trevor Mallard announced (25 families from Cannons Creek School in Porirua and 25 families from Panmure Bridge School in Auckland). The families would be provided with a recycled computer along with training and technical support.

The project is attempting to meet 'digital divide' issue i.e. the gap between those who have access to ICT and those who don't.

The Ministry of Education is putting \$10,000 into this project. It will be carefully evaluated to help develop ideas and systems to overcome some of these issues.

NEW SUPPORT FOR WORK-BASED TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Government is to provide better support for work-based training within the public sector. Work-based training provided for state sector employees through Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) will be paid for from the Industry Training Fund from July 2001. The Industry Training Fund subsidises structured industry leading to nationally-recognised qualifications up to level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (national certificates). An additional \$23 million was provided in the Budget over the next four years for industry training, bringing the total Industry Training Fund allocation to \$70.7 million per year from 1 July 2001.

SCHOOLS RECEIVE BOOST OF MORE THAN \$400 MILLION

Education Minister Trevor Mallard released the Government's property works programme for schools, confirming that \$403 million will be spent on new work at schools in 2000/01.

The programme represents over a \$30 million increase from the last works programme. It includes:

- a general modernisation programme,
- the new five year property programme,
- health and safety provision, and
- new sites and classrooms in high demand areas.

For this financial year, 450 schools will receive an average of \$215,000 for general modernisation projects. This is additional to funding for the 60 schools which are part of the new five year property programme which will be extended to all schools by 2005. Those schools are developing agreements with the Ministry of Education to provide certainty of funding for all their property needs over the next five years.

This year's programme will also deliver over 200 additional classrooms to support peak 2001 rolls for primary schools and peak 2002 rolls for secondary schools. The number of new classrooms needed in the coming year is down because while school rolls are still climbing, they are not growing at the burgeoning rate of recent years and the growth is now flowing into the secondary sector where there is generally more capacity.

Site purchases for new schools will continue and a start will be made on the design and construction of six new schools to open by 2002. In total, \$198 million will be spent on supporting growth.

DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS

DIVISION OF ROLES BETWEEN DHBS AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Ministry of Health will be accountable for the initial planning and funding of a number of services to give the transitional DHBS the chance to develop, the DHBS will ultimately be responsible for planning and funding the health and disability support services in their districts. DHBS are also responsible for collaborating to plan regionally, eg, for mental health services.

However, a few services will have to be planned and funded centrally to:

- reduce administration costs
- prevent budget blowouts of small DHBS when faced with exceptional or unpredictable high-cost services
- ensure that some services are appropriately funded (particularly some disability support services)
- help smaller DHBS access specific expert knowledge
- provide national consistency and monitoring of certain services.

The Minister will be able to use regulation, accountability arrangements (such as funding agreements and powers to direct) to provide the Minister of Health with powerful means to ensure that there is the necessary co-ordination, specific performance standard and policy objectives.

The enhanced HHS Boards will report to the Minister of Health by 1 September 2000 with proposals for DHB shared services, and national and regional funding alliances. The HFA, the Ministry of Health and CCMAU will work with the boards on those proposals.

ROLE OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE RE DHBS

Initially both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance will oversee financial aspects of board performance. The Minister of Health will agree with the Minister of Finance the financial aspects of the DHB's annual plans, strategic plans and statements of intent.

Over time, that responsibility will devolve solely to the Minister of Health, with the Minister of Finance having increased involvement only where there are high risks, such as a risk to the Crown through a DHB's poor performance.

TASKFORCE TO TACKLE PRISON NUMBERS

Cabinet has given the go-ahead for Minister of Corrections Matt Robson to set up a Taskforce to tackle the predicted rise in prison numbers.

Offenders released from prison in New Zealand have a re-conviction rate of up to 80%, higher than Australia, Canada, England or Scotland. New Zealand imprisons more people per head of population than nearly every other Western country, including Australia and the UK. We imprison 149 people per 100,000 of the general population (including inmates on remand). Department of Corrections figures predict a rise in the prison population of approximately 1000 by the year 2003. 44% of the prison population are imprisoned for non-violent offences.

The Taskforce will reportedly consider ways of toughening up community sentencing, to make programs like Home Detention, Periodic Detention, Habilitation Centres, half way houses as effective as possible.

Terms of reference will be announced shortly

REVIEW INTO SPORT, FITNESS AND LEISURE

A Ministerial Taskforce has been established to define the vision for sport, fitness and leisure in New Zealand for the next 25 years, identify the necessary strategies to encourage and sustain the interest, participation and achievement of New Zealanders in sport, fitness and leisure and to complete a review of long-term structural arrangements for the sport, fitness and leisure sector.

The work of the Taskforce shall be broad-based and recognise sport, fitness & leisure in its widest possible context and shall not be limited to structure and economics. The review shall be future focused, explore options for change, collaboration with key government portfolios and seek to bring sport, fitness and leisure into a clear government policy framework. The Taskforce shall take cognisance of the Government's principles of access, equity and participation.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The review team has been asked to:

- clearly define the vision for the sport, fitness and leisure sector that meet the needs of New Zealanders for the next 25 years
- identify the necessary strategies to encourage and sustain the interest and participation of New Zealanders in sport, fitness and leisure and in particular for Maori and Pacific Island communities
- examine the adequacy of the current sport, fitness and leisure delivery system
- examine the rationale for and adequacy of the Government's current involvement in the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- identify the issues and constraints impacting on the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- clearly define the necessary Government commitment, desired outcomes, roles and responsibilities in relation to sport, fitness and leisure
- provide advice on the most effective and efficient policy delivery structures for all levels of the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- identify the current and forward funding streams together with any structural changes to the delivery systems in the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- identify linkages with other areas of Government and propose workable mechanisms and commitments for multi-sectorial collaboration through engagement of these sectors and the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- identify linkages and strategies for Government and the private sector to improve the investment arrangements in the sport, fitness and leisure sector

In making its assessment and developing recommendations the Taskforce will also be asked to investigate and include particular comment on:

- progress towards the findings and recommendations of "Sport on the Move", "Recreation and Government in New Zealand" and "The Winning Way" reports
- the nature and scope of the sport, fitness and leisure sector
- the role of informal leisure activities in current society and the extent to which these should be supported
- the role and inter-relationships between club and school sport and physical activity programmes, national organisations, regional sports trusts, the Hillary Commission, the NZ Olympic Committee and the NZ Sports Foundation and other funding agencies
- the role of central, regional and local government in the provision of support services and facilities and the impact of user pays on participation in sport, fitness and leisure activities
- the role of outdoor recreation and the national park system as a recreational facility for all New Zealanders and the role of adventure in developing self esteem for young people
- issues surrounding the sovereignty of organised sport and recreation organisations in New Zealand
- the impact of the globalisation of sport and the increased commercialism of sport through television and mega events

- promotion of trade and tourism through sport, fitness and leisure
- issues affecting levels of sponsorship for both individual athletes and for sporting codes
- the contribution of the sport, fitness and leisure sector to the economy, to society and to the health of the nation
- the contribution made by volunteers and the importance of recognising volunteer effort
- opportunities for advancing physical activity in the Maori and Pacific Island communities of New Zealand including
- a strategy to support and encourage Maori participation in sport from amateur through to professional levels
- sponsorship and/or financial support for emerging Maori sporting talent.
- sport as a profession for Māori and clearly identified career pathways to achieve this.
- employment opportunities for Māori in sport including support roles.
- role modelling by top Māori sporting personalities.
- the most appropriate and workable mechanisms for multi-sectoral collaboration involving the education, social services, justice and health portfolios in bringing about sustained participation of New Zealanders in sport, fitness and leisure
- sources of funding for sport, fitness and leisure
- the basis of a robust and wide ranging government policy on sport, fitness and leisure in New Zealand
- the most appropriate and workable mechanisms for multi-sectoral collaboration involving central and local government, the voluntary and commercial sector in bringing about the best outcomes for sport, fitness and leisure

In achieving its task, the Taskforce is charged with implementing a comprehensive consultation programme, which will include the following:

- (a) identification of key sector groups;
- (b) discussions with key sector groups;
- (c) discussions with key government agencies;
- (d) obtaining expert advice to assist in examining key issues;
- (e) inviting submissions and holding public consultation sessions;
- (f) researching, via the internet, similar nations' sport, fitness & leisure systems;
- (g) preparing a final report for the Minister of Sport, Fitness & Leisure, recommending appropriate action, by 15 December 2000. This report should comprise:
 - A clearly defined vision for sport, fitness and leisure in New Zealand
 - A coherent philosophy and framework for government and non-government involvement in the promotion of and support for sport, fitness & leisure initiatives in New Zealand
 - A clearly defined structural framework to support Government and non-Government commitments and objectives in the sport, fitness and leisure portfolio
 - Implementation strategies which include resource requirements and key milestones to achieve the vision
- (h) Cabinet will subsequently consider any such report in February 2001 for policy adoption and appropriate resource allocations.

The Taskforce will be headed by former Auckland Grammar School Principal and former All Black John Graham and will report back to the Government by the end of the year. Other members will be lawyer and mountaineer David Collins; former world squash champion Dame Susan Devoy; New Zealand Recreation Association president Janet MacKay; Black Ferns captain Farah Palmer - a coaching co-ordinator; Cardiologist Dr Mark Simmonds - a Clinical Senior Lecturer at Wellington Clinical School of Medicine; and Glenn Turner, former NZ Cricket Team Captain and Coach and Chief Executive of the Otago Sports Trust.

GAMING REVIEW

The Government is to conduct a comprehensive review of gaming. Additional provision has been made in the budget for the Department of Internal Affairs to conduct a Gaming Review. It is intended that the review will facilitate parliamentary decisions on gaming policy and subsequent implementation of that policy through legislative change.

The Gaming Law Reform Bill, which was introduced under the previous government and is still before the select committee, deals with some matters affecting the regulation of casinos and gaming machines. However, the government has identified that it is also necessary to address wider questions of what the legal framework relating to gaming and gambling should be.

The Minister identified a number of specific concerns:

- Nothing is in place to help us manage cross-border electronic/Internet gambling.
- Casinos are run for commercial profit while other forms of gaming are not, and controls are perceived by many to be most stringent on community organisations.
- Problem gambling is a significant social issue that needs to be addressed, but legislation to enable education about gambling and to assist problem gamblers is almost non-existent.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Determine Government's desired outcomes for the gaming sector, by focusing on the integration and analysis of existing material relating to:

- the present impacts of gaming and gaming policy:
- economic impacts
- social benefits and costs focused on problem gambling and economic negatives
- technology impacts, including international impacts
- benefits/problems of present fragmented policies/regulatory regimes
- the positives and negatives of the current reasons for intervention:
- minimise criminal influence
- consumer protection
- tourism/jobs (casinos, racing)
- minimise social downside (especially problem gambling)
- profits to community in some cases
- the desired reasons for intervention

Develop a strategy for Government's approach to problem gambling (as the COPGM funding agreement expires in June 2001):

- Publish all the reports from the New Zealand Gaming Survey
- Health / Consumer Affairs interfaces

Design of the regulatory regime, taxation framework and institutional framework required to achieve Government's desired outcomes.

Develop and implement the framework by way of legislative change.

NEW PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE SETTLEMENT OF HISTORICAL TREATY CLAIMS

Six key principles are being adopted to guide the Government in negotiating settlements of historical claims under the Treaty of Waitangi, the Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations.

The principles have been established as part of the Government's appraisal of the criteria and processes for the settlement of historical claims, which has just been completed.

The principles are as follows:

Good Faith

The negotiating process is to be conducted in good faith, based on mutual trust and cooperation towards a common goal.

Restoration of relationship

The strengthening of the relationship is an integral part of the settlement process and will be reflected in any settlement. The settlement of historical grievances also needs to be understood within the context of wider government policies that are aimed at restoring and developing the Treaty relationship - for example, the Government's "Closing the Gaps" programme and the development of policy to address contemporary claims.

Just redress

Redress should relate fundamentally to the nature and extent of breaches suffered. This government has ensured the final abolition of the "fiscal envelope" policy of the former National Government, while maintaining a fiscally prudent approach. Existing settlements will be used as benchmarks for future settlements where appropriate. While the Government will continue to honour the relativity clause in the Tainui and Ngai Tahu settlements, it will not be included in future settlements. The reason for this is that each claim is treated on its merits and does not have to be fitted under a predetermined fiscal cap, as was the case under National's policy.

Fairness between claims

There needs to be consistency in the treatment of claims. In particular “like should be treated as like” so that similar claims receive a similar level of fiscal redress.

Transparency

The Government will give consideration to how to promote greater understanding of the issues. First, it is important that claimants have sufficient information to enable them to understand the basis on which claims are settled. Secondly, there is a need to promote greater public understanding of the Treaty and the settlement process.

Government-negotiated

The Treaty settlement process is necessarily one of negotiation between claimants and the Government as the only two parties who can, by agreement, achieve durable, fair and final settlements. The Government's direct negotiation with claimants ensures delivery of the agreed settlement and minimises costs to all parties.

The government has moved entirely away from the fiscal envelope concept. In the 2000/01 Budget the appropriation for Treaty Settlements is based on ensuring there is a reasonable and sufficient provision for the settlement of Treaty claims for the period of the appropriation.

NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA AGREE ON STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN

New Zealand and Australia has agreed to take a collaborative approach to combating domestic violence against women, which will involve sharing knowledge and information on campaigns being run across jurisdictions.

An evaluation of New Zealand's local Domestic Violence Act will be released shortly, and the government may be able to draw on the success of some of these Australian anti-violence programmes in developing a more coordinated approach to the issue.

Ministers agreed to fund a joint project to investigate what information women need from government, and the best way to ensure that information is accessible to all women, including indigenous women, disadvantaged groups, rural women and non-English speakers.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

The New Zealand government is holding discussions with the United Nations Asia Pacific Centre For Disarmament on the possibility of New Zealand hosting a disarmament conference early next year.

\$450,000 was allocated in the last budget for new multi-lateral initiatives, some of which will be used for meeting the costs of this conference.

A formal agenda for the conference has yet to be decided, but a segment could aid further implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the South Pacific.

The conference, hosted by New Zealand in early 2001, will reportedly be an opportunity for New Zealand to promote a nuclear weapon free Southern Hemisphere. (There are already nuclear free zones in the South Pacific, South East Asia, Latin America and Africa).

Recommendation: That the Committee receive this report.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the above recommendation be adopted.
 2. That opportunities for Council response/feedback by way of submissions or representations be signalled when appropriate.