



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Draft New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Strategy: Public Consultation

Portfolio Disability Issues

On 2 April 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that the existing New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Strategy expired in 2023 and therefore a new NZSL Strategy is required;
- 2 **agreed** to a six-week public consultation process, beginning 22 April 2025, on a draft NZSL strategy for 2025 – 2030;
- 3 **noted** that the consultation process will take a ‘NZSL first’ approach, and that the Deaf community and Deaf sector stakeholders will be specifically targeted as part of the consultation process;
- 4 **approved** the draft New Zealand Sign Language Strategy 2025-2030 (the draft strategy), attached to the submission under SOU-25-SUB-0031 for release as part of the consultation process;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister for Disability Issues (the Minister) will report back to SOU seeking approval for the New Zealand Sign Language Board (the Board) to release the final NZSL Strategy;
- 6 **noted** [REDACTED]
s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 7 **noted** that, following the release of the final NZSL Strategy, officials from the Ministry of Disabled People will work with other agencies to develop action plans for the NZSL Strategy, as well as NZSL-related indicators;
- 8 **agreed** that government agencies will report on NZSL use or service availability as part of their annual reports;
- 9 **agreed** that that the Minister will report back to Cabinet on a yearly basis on progress on delivering the NZSL Strategy;
- 10 **noted** that in 2023, the previous government agreed to amend the NZSL Act 2006 to establish a statutory ministerial advisory group [SWC-23-MIN-0022];

- 11 **noted** that the former Minister for Disability Issues decided not to progress these changes;
- 12 **agreed** to rescind the decisions referred to in paragraph 10;
- 13 **noted** that the Alternate Formats service moved from the Ministry of Social Development to the Ministry of Disabled People in December 2024;
- 14 **noted** that the Ministry of Disabled People is looking at how to stabilise and improve the Alternate Formats service.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU