

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information has been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [7] 6(e)(ii) - to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the regulation of banking or credit
- [12] 7(a)(i) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of the Cook Islands
- [13] 7(a)(ii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of Niue
- [14] 7(a)(iii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of Tokelau
- [15] 7(a)(iv) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the Ross Dependency
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest

- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment;
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [41] 18(d) - information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Budget 2026 Package: Vote Disability Support Services

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiative for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 Budget package, as listed in the summary table below and detailed in the attached initiative document:

Summary of initiative:

Operating Initiative (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17578	Disability Support Services - Returning Underspends	(200.000)	-	-	-	-
Total Operating		(200.000)	-	-	-	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Disability Support Services

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Disability Support Services - Returning Underspends

Description: This savings initiative returns underspends from Vote Disability Support Services in 2025/26. Successful budgetary controls implemented after the Independent Review into Disability Support Services have resulted in lower-than-expected allocations in 2025/26. This, along with a previous transfer to 2026/27, means that funding can be returned to the centre.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(200.000)	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(200.000)	-	-	-	-

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Disability Support Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Administering and developing disability support services (funded by revenue Crown)	(11.000)	-	-	-	-
Connecting people with supports and communities (funded by revenue Crown)	(4.000)	-	-	-	-
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Community-based support services	(128.000)	-	-	-	-
Residential-based support services	(57.000)	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Disability Support Services (MCA)	(200.000)	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	(200.000)	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **agreed** that any underspends in the *Disability Support Services* Multi-Category Appropriation for the year ending 30 June 2026 be transferred to the 2026/27 financial year;
- 3 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister for Disability Issues to jointly agree the final amount to be transferred, following completion of the 2025/26 audited financial statements of the Ministry of Social Development, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt over the forecast period.