

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

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Budget 2026 Package: Vote Social Development (Technical Initiatives)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

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

Summary of technical initiatives:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17409	Revision to the Scope Statement of the Enhancement and Promotion of SuperGold Cards Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-
17374	Family and Sexual Violence Programme Transfers	(1.550)	1.550	-	-	-
17380	Fiscally Neutral Adjustment for Departmental Appropriations to Respond to Changes in Cost Drivers	-	-	-	-	-
17408	Regional System Leadership Framework Transfer	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-
17372	Rephasing of Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey Funding	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-
Total Operating		(2.775)	2.025	1.000	(0.250)	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Social Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Revision to the Scope Statement of the Enhancement and Promotion of SuperGold Cards Appropriation

Description: This initiative revises the scope statement for the “Enhancement and Promotion of SuperGold Cards” appropriation to improve clarity, at the request of the Minister for Seniors.

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **noted** that the existing scope statement is “This appropriation is limited to promoting, enhancing and delivering information about the SuperGold and Veteran SuperGold cards, and enlisting businesses to provide discounts to SuperGold cardholders.”;
- 3 **agreed** to amend the scope statement to “This appropriation is limited to promoting, delivering information about and enhancing the SuperGold and Veteran SuperGold cards, and enlisting businesses to provide discounts to SuperGold cardholders.”

Vote: Social Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Family and Sexual Violence Programme Transfers

Description: This initiative transfers funding from 2025/26 to 2026/27 to support two ongoing work programmes: a prototype family violence prevention programme for Kaikohe, and evaluations of services. The funding will also support continued activity to build the evidence base for community services, and planned initiatives to address gaps within the family and sexual violence services evidence base.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(1.550)	1.550	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(1.550)	1.550	-	-	-

* 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:					
Community Support Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Developing and Managing Community Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.000)	1.000	-	-	-
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Supporting Victims and Perpetrators of Family and Sexual Violence	(0.550)	0.550	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Support Services (MCA)	(1.550)	1.550	-	-	-
Total Operating	(1.550)	1.550	-	-	-

Vote: Social Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Fiscally Neutral Adjustment for Departmental Appropriations to Respond to Changes in Cost Drivers

Description: This initiative provides a fiscally neutral adjustment between appropriations to reflect changes in cost drivers during 2025/26. The Ministry of Social Development allocates costs to appropriations based on various cost drivers, such as time spent on activities, volume data, and demand-driven services.

Appropriation Changes

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

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Data, Analytics and Evidence Services (funded by revenue Crown)	0.500	-	-	-	-
Management of Student Loans (funded by revenue Crown)	5.000	-	-	-	-
Management of Student Support (funded by revenue Crown)	5.000	-	-	-	-
Planning, Correspondence and Monitoring (funded by revenue Crown)	0.800	-	-	-	-
Services to Support People to Access Accommodation (funded by revenue Crown)	(10.300)	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Community Support Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Developing and Managing Community Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.100)	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Support Services (MCA)	(1.100)	-	-	-	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Partnering for Youth Development (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Administering Youth Development (funded by revenue Crown)	0.100	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Partnering for Youth Development (MCA)	0.100	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

Vote: Social Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Regional System Leadership Framework Transfer

Description: This initiative transfers underspends of \$1.225 million from 2025/26 to 2026/27. The Regional System Leadership Framework (RSLF) gives effect to the Public Services Act 2020 and supports the mandate of the System Leader for Regional Public Services and the Regional Public Service Commissioners to deliver greater joined up regional priority planning, and aims to embed regional partnerships with iwi, local government and communities for greater wellbeing resilience. It produces additional benefits of reducing cross-agency duplication, finding efficiencies and ensuring strategic cross-agency investment is delivered to where it is most needed.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-

* 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:					
Community Support Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Regional System Leadership Framework (funded by revenue Crown)	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Support Services (MCA)	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-
Total Operating	(1.225)	1.225	-	-	-

Vote: Social Development

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Social Development

Title: Rephasing of Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey Funding

Description: The Ministry of Social Development received funding for a Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey. The survey aims to collect data from young people on a range of areas, including culture, ethnicity and family life, which will inform future key policy programmes to provide the best possible outcomes for young people. Outyear funding is being re-phased to better reflect the expected workflows of the survey.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-

* 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:					
Partnering for Youth Development (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Administering Youth Development (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Partnering for Youth Development (MCA)	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-
Total Operating	-	(0.750)	1.000	(0.250)	-