



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### National Cervical Screening Programme Sustainability

Portfolio Associate Health (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall)

On 27 July 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that:
  - 1.1 while the National Cervical Screening Programme has been successful at a population level, changes are needed to ensure sustainability quality, safety, equity and effectiveness of the programme;
  - 1.2 Human papillomavirus (HPV) primary screening would further reduce incidence of and mortality from cervical cancer, with a greater relative reduction for wāhine Māori compared to non-Māori women;
- 2 **noted** that in Budget 2021, Cabinet approved \$52.992 million over four years to implement HPV primary screening with the option of self-testing [CAB-21-MIN-0116.14];
- 3 **noted** that s 9(2)(i) of the above funding has been appropriated for Phase 1 to support the development of an implementation business case;
- 4 **noted** that s 9(2)(i) in implementation funding is set aside in *Human Papillomavirus Primary Screening for the National Cervical Screening Programme - Contingency* based on the indicative costs for Phase 2, and that the costs will be further refined as part of the implementation business case;
- 5 **noted** that:
  - 5.1 Cabinet authorised the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health (joint Ministers) to draw down funding from the above tagged contingency subject to Cabinet approval of the programme business case [CAB-21-MIN-0116.14];
  - 5.2 joint Ministers have approved an extension of the contingency's expiry to 1 February 2023;
- 6 **endorsed** the programme business case attached under SWC-22-SUB-0135, which sets out the justification for investing in improvements within the National Cervical Screening Programme, through the implementation of HPV primary screening with the option for self-testing;

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**SWC-22-MIN-0135**

- 7 **authorised** joint Ministers to approve the implementation business case, without further reference to Cabinet.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Kiri Allan  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Meka Whaitri

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Chair  
Officials Committee for SWC

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