

# Briefing

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

## Proactive Release of Cabinet Paper – Breast Screening Age Extension and Minutes of Decision

<b>Due to MO:</b>	17 April 2025	<b>Reference</b>	HNZ00062122
<b>To:</b>	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
<b>From:</b>	Dr Nick Chamberlain, National Director, National Public Health Service		
<b>Copy to:</b>	n/a		
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Priority</b>	Routine
<b>Consulted</b>	n/a		

Action sought	Action required by
Agree to proactively release the Cabinet Paper titled “ <i>Cabinet Paper – Breast Screening Age Extension</i> ” and Minute of decision “ <i>CAB-24-MIN-0029</i> ”.	28 April 2025

Contact for further discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Phone	1st contact
Dr Nick Chamberlain	National Director, National Public Health Service	s 9(2)(a)	x
Alana Ewe-Snow	Director Prevention, National Public Health Service		

Attachments	
<b>Appendix 1:</b>	Cabinet Paper – Breast Screening Age Extension
<b>Appendix 2:</b>	CAB-24-MIN-0029 Minute of Decision

## Purpose

1. This Briefing seeks your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper and Minute of Decision titled "*Cabinet Paper – Breast Screening Age Extension*" [CAB-24-MIN-0029].

## Recommendations

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora recommends that you:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| a) <b>Agree</b> for Health NZ to proactively release the Cabinet Paper and Minute of Decision entitled Cabinet Paper – Breast Screening Age Extension" [CAB-24-MIN-0029]. | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| <hr/>   |               |
| b) <b>Agree</b> any redactions by 28 April 2025 for us to action ahead of public release.   | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| <hr/>   |               |

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Date:



Dr Nick Chamberlain  
National Director, National  
Public Health Service

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora  
Date: 16 April 2025

## Background

2. The Cabinet paper – Breast Screening Age Extension was approved by Cabinet on 12 February 2024 [CAB-24-MIN-0029]. This was an Oral Item to Cabinet.
3. Proactive release is in line with Cabinet Office circular CO (18)4 – Proactive Release of Cabinet Material requiring all Cabinet and Cabinet committee papers and minutes to be proactively released within 30 business days of final decisions being taken by Cabinet.
4. We have reviewed the Cabinet paper and Minute of Decision to determine whether redactions are required. We propose to release both documents in full, with no redactions being identified as necessary.
5. We invite you to comment on the proposed release, including to suggest any redactions you consider should be made.

## Discussion

6. Limited risks are identified with the proposed release of these documents as the initiative was publicly announced on 15 February 2024. The Breast Screening Age Extension launch occurred in Nelson on 31 October 2024.
7. We also note that the implementation plan was finalised and sent to the former Minister of Health, Minister Reti on 24 October 2024 (HNZ00065404 refers). On 31 October 2024, Minister Reti directed a change to the phased roll-out approach to add an additional free screen at age 74 and funding for this was approved by the Commissioner.
8. A further update on progress of the roll-out was provided to Minister Reti on 12 December 2024 (HNZ00074346 refers).

## Next steps

9. We look forward to any feedback you wish to provide on the proactive release of these documents.
10. Please let us know of any suggestions for redactions by 28 April. We will then consider any proposed redactions ahead of release. As needed, we will discuss these matters with your office.
11. With your approval, the Cabinet paper and Minute of Decision will be published on our website.