



# Cabinet Social Policy Committee

SOC Min (10) 30/9

Copy No: 36

## 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.*

### Setting Controls on Student Services Levies

Portfolio: Tertiary Education

On 18 December 2010, the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC):

- 1 noted that there have been significant increases in the compulsory non-tuition fees (student services levies) charged by universities and some polytechnics with no proportionate increase in the level of services provided;
- 2 noted that the current legislation does not allow the government to set controls on student services levies in the same way that it does for tuition fees and other compulsory course costs through the Annual Maximum Fee Movement;
- 3 agreed to introduce a new framework for student services levies to provide greater transparency and accountability for how tertiary education providers resource and deliver core pastoral care services;
- 4 agreed to:
  - 4.1 amend the Education Act 1989 (the Act) to provide that the Minister for Tertiary Education may specify conditions on funding which set limits on the type and amount of all the compulsory fees that may be charged by institutions and private training establishments;
  - 4.2 amend the Act to provide that institutions and private training establishments must provide prospective students with details of the student services levy payable on enrolment;
  - 4.3 amend the Act to give the Minister for Tertiary Education the power to require that levies be held in a separate account and to require annual reporting of expenditure on student services;
  - 4.4 amend the Act to give the Minister the power to require providers to involve students in all decisions related to student services levies;
  - 4.5 make any consequential amendments to the Act and other associated legislation (if necessary) as a result of the above amendments;

- 5 authorised the Minister for Tertiary Education to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the changes agreed for the Education Amendment Bill (No 4) relating to student services levies;
- 6 authorised the Minister for Tertiary Education to take decisions on the details of the changes relating to student services levies, without further reference to Cabinet, subject to those details being consistent with the policy intent set out in the submission under SOC (10) 146;
- 7 invited the Minister for Tertiary Education to report to SOC by February 2011 on any decisions made in relation to paragraph 6;

**Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)**

Withheld under section  
9(2)(a)

Reference: SOC (10) 146

**Present:**

Hon Simon Power  
Hon Tony Ryall (Chair)  
Hon Judith Collins  
Hon Anne Tolley  
Hon Christopher Finlayson  
Hon Steven Joyce  
Hon Georgina te Heuheu  
Hon Paula Bennett  
Hon Maurice Williamson  
Hon Nathan Guy  
Hon Rodney Hide  
Hon Peter Dunne

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Social Policy Committee

Distribution: (see over)

Distribution:

Cabinet Social Policy Committee  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Chief Executive, DPMC  
Director, PAG, DPMC  
PAG Subject Advisor, DPMC  
Secretary to the Treasury  
Audrey Sonerson, Treasury  
Secretary for Education  
Chief Executive, New Zealand Qualifications Authority  
Minister for Tertiary Education  
Secretary for Education (Tertiary)  
Chief Executive, Tertiary Education Commission  
Chief Executive, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs  
Chief Executive, Ministry of Women's Affairs  
Chief Executive, MSD  
Don Gray, MSD  
Chief Executive, Te Puni Kokiri  
Geoff Short, Te Puni Kokiri  
Chief Executive, MSD (Disability Issues)  
Chief Parliamentary Counsel  
Legislation Coordinator

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT