

Recommendations

FEBRUARY 2019

The Welfare Expert Advisory Group's Report presents 42 key recommendations and over 100 detailed recommendations that aim to restore dignity to New Zealand's Social Security System.

A summary of the recommendations follows:

- Change the Social Security Act to reflect whakamana tāngata, restoring dignity to people so they can participate meaningfully in their communities.
- Improve income adequacy by increasing income support for people on low incomes, including increasing main benefits and indexing this support more generously, while ensuring that people are always better off in paid work. Ensure that the income support system is easy to access, provides timely support, and that people have access to their full and correct entitlements.
- Introduce a living alone payment to acknowledge the additional costs faced by this group.
- Reform Working for Families and other tax credits to increase incomes for individuals and families with children and to simplify the system. This includes increasing the Family Tax Credit and introducing a new Earned Income Tax Credit to replace the In-Work Tax Credit, Minimum Family Tax Credit and Independent Earner Tax Credit.
- Restore trust in the system by rebalancing the social contract and improving the operation of the welfare system in line with the new purpose and principles. This will include developing a mutual expectations framework, reducing the generation of debt, and improving the culture of MSD.
- Reform child-related payments so that they follow the child and can be apportioned with shared care.
- Recognise the importance of housing and promote housing policies that increase more affordable rental and ownership options for those reliant on main benefit and on low incomes.
- Promote Active Labour Market policies that enhance lifelong learning and assist people back into good and sustainable work.
- Adopt explicit requirements to improve outcomes for Māori at all levels through governance, policy formation, service provision and outcomes evaluation.
- Acknowledge health and disability needs among those reliant on a main benefit and improve conditions for disabled, those with health conditions and their carers, including more equitable access to support.
- Support youth to engage in education, training or paid work.
- Specific responses are required to achieve equitable outcomes for Pacific People engaging with the welfare system.



LEARN MORE:

Download the *Whakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand* report, and the Executive Summary in English and Te Reo Māori at www.weag.govt.nz

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