

Security classification: In-Confidence

File number: AD62-2017

Action required by: 4 December 2017

Letter to Minister of State Services regarding fees for members of the Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction

To: Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health

Key points

On 29 November 2017, Cabinet Business Committee agreed in principle [CBC-17-MIN-0029 refers] to establish a Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction (the inquiry) under the Inquiries Act 2013. A report back to formally establish the inquiry is expected in mid-December 2017 including members' fees.

Cabinet Office Circular CO (12) 6, *Fees framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest (the Fees Framework)*, guides the payment of fees to, amongst others, the Chair and members of Government Inquiries. All fees for such inquiries must be referred to the Minister for State Services for consideration as an exception.

As the appointing Minister for the inquiry, you must write to the Minister of State Services to seek his agreement to inquiry members' fees. A draft letter is attached for your signature. A response from the Minister of State Services is required ahead of lodging the cabinet paper, currently 7 December 2017.

It is proposed that you seek agreement for fees of up to \$1942.60 per day for the Inquiry Chair, this is the daily rate of a High Court Judge. Members' fees will be proportional to the Chair's fee, generally this is two thirds of the Chair's fee, so in the order of \$1300.00. Chair and members' fees are published so it is advised members receive the same fee, though there is scope for different fees to reflect skills and background if required. Officials are currently working on the fees range for proposed inquiry members. If fees higher than the proposed range are necessary to secure suitably qualified people, you can include this in December 2017 Cabinet report back.

In proposing this level of fee a number of factors were considered:

- i. the inquiry is likely to attract considerable domestic attention and potentially international attention;
- ii. the inquiry will involve analysing complex material, sensitive issues and needs a range of members with diverse and high calibre skills;
- iii. the inquiry members' expected workload, operating timeframes and the extensive personal demands involved with a complex inquiry; and
- iv. that the fees are broadly consistent with those paid to members of previous inquiries.

Recommendations

The Ministry recommends that you:


- a) **sign** the attached letter to the Minister of State Services **Yes/No**

Hannah Cameron
Deputy Chief Policy Officer
Strategy and Policy

Minister's signature:

Date:

END.

Contact:	Hannah Cameron, Deputy Chief Policy Officer, Strategy and Policy	 Contact details withheld under s9(2)(g)(ii)
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