

Hon Chris Hipkins

**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Hon Dr David Clark
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON



25 JAN 2018

Dear Minister

Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction - Exceptional fees

Thank you for your letter, received on 19 January 2018, seeking my agreement to the payment of exceptional fees to the Chair and members of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction (the Inquiry).

You are proposing to appoint the Chair of the Inquiry on a fee of \$1,400 per day and members on fees of \$975 per day.

Fees at this level are significant, however I acknowledge the significance of this Inquiry and that there will be strong public interest in it. I accept that the Inquiry members need to be of the highest calibre with extensive knowledge and experience, and that the Inquiry will involve significant demands on the Chair's and members' time.

I note that the proposed fees are consistent with the fees paid to members of previous Inquiries and are lower than the daily equivalent paid to a sitting High Court Judge.

Accordingly, I agree to the payment of daily fees of \$1,400 to the Chair, and \$975 to the members of the Inquiry without referral to Cabinet's Appointments and Honours Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CHIPKINS'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of State Services