

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

June 2011

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- [1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
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- [6] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [7] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
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- [10] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
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In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

From: John MacCormick
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2011 11:26 a.m.
To: [1]
Subject: RE: Draft response RE: metal health post budget announcement

Good morning[1]

We received a copy of the Minister of Health's letter and the Ministry's cover note yesterday.

Our advice:

- Announcing \$40m over 4 years for mental health blueprint spending is fine.
- Announcing that dementia caregivers and [3] are priorities for this funding is also fine (although we've not seen any advice to support these priorities)

[2],[3]

We can draft a letter of reply to Hon Ryall if you wish, requesting that the Ministry report on the work it is supposed to have done, and requesting that budget media releases stay out of specific funding commitments until proper decisions can be made.

The Minister should decline to support any announcement of specific dollar amounts for projects under this funding.

- Cabinet approved this funding as a contingency subject to joint Ministers' agreement pending completion of policy development and implementation planning. The Ministry was to report back with options for use of this funding and seek approval before any commitment is made.
- The Ministry has not provided MOF with any advice on options, policy development, or implementation planning as the Cabinet Minute required (Preliminary advice has apparently been tendered to the Minister of Health, and his letter suggests more work is underway but we have not seen anything to date). MOF has been given no information on needs analysis, options to respond, costings, or details of the [3]

[3]

- In our view this is a good case study of the problems a "ring fence" for mental health funding creates.
- [3]

From: [1]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2011 10:14 a.m.

To: John MacCormick

Subject: Draft response RE: metal health post budget announcement

[1]] Analyst, Health | **The Treasury**

[1]

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From: [1]

Sent: Monday, 2 May 2011 7:04 p.m.

To: Chris Bunny; [1] John MacCormick

Cc: [1]

Subject: metal health post budget announcement

Hi Chris [1]] John

Minister Ryall wrote a letter to our Minister asking for his agreement to the allocation and announcement in Budget of funding for new mental health initiatives.

I've asked last week that MoH work with you on the timing and any other requirements.

Can you please let me know your advice ASAP

thanks

[1]

Economic Advisor

Office of the Hon Bill English

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[1]

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