

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

June 2011

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

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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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- [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
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice.

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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.

Ministry of Women's Affairs

Four-year Budget Plan

Version 1

1 December 2010

Section 1: New Baseline and Summary of Changes

Direction of Change

The government's overriding goal is to grow New Zealand's economy, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs will continue to focus on the priorities set for it to ensure that women have real choices and are able to use their strengths to maximise social and economic success – for themselves, for their families and for New Zealand as a whole.

The Ministry will continue to focus on three outcome areas:

- to increase the participation of women in leadership roles across the economy
- to ensure that all women can be fully engaged in the economy and contribute to the country's economic growth
- to reduce the damaging impact of violence against women, particularly sexual violence.

To achieve these, the Ministry provides the following services:

- nominating suitable women for appointment to boards and committees in the state sector
- providing policy advice and interventions on issues that impact on women
- managing New Zealand's international obligations in relation to the status of women.

Overall Impact

Operating	Impact (\$000s)				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Current Baseline	4,758	4,586	4,554	4,554	4,554
Cost of new/increased activities	-	-	-	-	-
Amount reprioritised	-	-	-	-	-
New baseline	4,758	4,586	4,554	4,554	4,554

Capital	Impact (\$000s)				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Capital proposals seeking new funding in Budget 2011.	-	-	-	-	-
Capital proposals seeking decisions in Budget 2011 funded within baselines.	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital intentions	-	-	-	-	-

Section 2: Vote Priorities and Pressures

To increase the participation of women in leadership roles across the economy

Evidence shows a connection between more women on boards and better economic performance of businesses.

The Ministry will focus on increasing the numbers of women on boards in the state and private sectors and influencing private sector practices by:

- operating the Nominations Service, with some focus on important, under-represented areas in the state sector and a specific emphasis on Māori women
- providing advice to women on governance roles and how to develop their governance competencies
- addressing women's low participation on private company boards by:
 - working in partnership with private sector organisations and building awareness among business leaders
 - using the recent experience in Australia of a rapid increase in women on company boards
 - identifying a pool of suitable women directors.

To ensure that all women can be fully engaged in the economy and contribute to the country's economic growth

Women's skills are under-utilised in the economy. Their increasingly higher skills are not translating into significant labour market improvement. This represents lost opportunities for women themselves and for the country as a whole.

The Ministry's work in employment focuses on addressing factors that contribute to the gender pay gap, currently around 11 percent, and on removing barriers to women achieving their full potential through workforce participation. This work includes:

- assisting and encouraging different sectors to remove barriers where they exist
- providing evidence to promote and highlight exemplars, such as the case for flexible work
- investigating gender segregation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and in emerging industries
- encouraging more young women to move into the less-traditional careers and stay there.

To reduce the damaging impact of violence against women, particularly sexual violence

Too many women are victims of abuse, which has significant social and economic costs to the country. The work of the Ministry contributes to service delivery based on evidence of what works, so that victims/survivors are restored to well-being as soon as possible, by providing advice and support to government and community initiatives to reduce violence against women, including:

- contributing to the Ministry of Social Development-led stock-take of government expenditure on sexual violence services
- identifying and examining little-understood issues, such as intimate partner violence in ethnic communities and sexual coercion and resilience in young Māori
- contribute to the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families
- assist and support wider government and community efforts on family violence.

Relative priorities

If the Ministry were required to do less work on one of the three priorities for the Vote, it would do less work on reducing the damaging impact of violence against women.

There are other agencies such as the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Justice that are doing significant work in this area and have responsibility for funding services to respond to violence.

Cost pressures

The major pressure on Vote Women's Affairs is controlling costs within fixed nominal baselines. The key drivers of the Ministry's costs are people-related. Most of the costs relate to staff and the cost of supporting those staff.

All government agencies are expected to achieve improved efficiencies wherever possible and that overall, a shift in resourcing is made from 'back office' to 'front office'. For the Ministry, the 'front office' is the policy and nominations advice and other support services it provides to the Minister of Women's Affairs.

The Ministry has started a review of the administrative and support services it needs to effectively perform its core roles, and how these services should best be structured. The review will look at each service and define the nature and level of service that is required, appropriate performance metrics (where possible using Treasury BASS definitions), and identify opportunities for reducing costs while maintaining or enhancing performance.

The outcomes from the review are expected to be implemented by June 2011.

Section 3: Proposed Changes for Budget 2011 (Reprioritisation)

No changes are proposed to Vote Women's Affairs for Budget 2011.

Section 4: Summary of Financial Movements

The Summary of Financial Movements report from CFISnet is attached.