



# Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Pacific Preparedness and Response

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 11 March 2020, the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response, acting in accordance with its Power to Act:

- 1        **noted** that Pacific countries are vulnerable to severe impacts from a COVID-19 outbreak;
- 2        **noted** that New Zealand has been working closely with Pacific partners, the World Health Organisation, and Australia on regional preparedness, but that readiness across the region remains highly variable;
- 3        s6(a)
- 4        **agreed** that a package of s6(a) financial support s6(a) s6(a) to support Pacific countries to manage their key health, economic, social, and governance challenges relating to COVID-19, with:
  - 4.1      s6(a) of this funding being earmarked to support immediate health system preparation;
  - 4.2      s6(a) being used to support broader measures to enable Pacific authorities to address a range of economic, social and governance constraints;
- 5        **agreed** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs be mandated to decide on the allocation of resources within the s6(a) envelope, keeping Cabinet updated as the support package is rolled out;
- 6        s6(a)

7 **noted** the vulnerability of New Zealand's offshore network of small posts in the Pacific.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon James Shaw

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor  
Department of the Prime Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Treasury  
State Services Commission  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry for Social Development  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
New Zealand Customs Service

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Minister of Foreign Affairs