

Government Digital Services briefing

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister for Government Digital Services

Title: **Proposed Covid-19 Budget initiatives**

Date: 21 April 2020

Key issues

This memo summarises draft proposals for the notional fund the Government is establishing to cover COVID-19 related expenses.

Action sought

Note that the Department of Internal Affairs has prepared draft proposals for the notional fund the Government is establishing to cover COVID-19 related expenses

Agree to discuss these draft proposals with officials at our regular briefing on 22 April 2020.

Timeframe

22 April 2020

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 st contact
Colin Holden	General Manager System Strategy and Initiatives	9(2)(a)		✓

Return to	Colin Holden
Cohesion reference	4UAZY7VS6QRJ-168030080-445
Ministerial database	GDS202000120

Purpose

1. This memo summarises draft proposals from the DPS Branch for the notional fund the Government is establishing to cover COVID-19 related expenses.
2. These proposals have not yet been discussed by the Ministry's Executive Leadership Team or approved for submission by the Chief Executive, but are provided to support a conversation with you about your Covid Budget priorities at our officials meeting on Wednesday 22 April.

Background and Context

3. Treasury issued a circular on 30 March 2020 providing guidance to Departments on a process for seeking funding in relation COVID-19 related expenses. Cabinet will consider a package on 11 May 2020.
4. Any funding sought in relation to COVID-19 expenses will need to meet the following criteria:
 - Funding is needed as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - Funding is needed outside of the normal budget cycle to support the response and/or recovery from COVID-19; and
 - The additional costs cannot be managed from existing baselines.
5. The DPS Branch has identified two categories of Covid-19-related costs:
 - initiatives where DIA has incurred direct costs in relation to the Covid-19 response for which it seeks reimbursement
 - initiatives that the GCDO could take to support the Covid-19 response and recovery.
6. We have also reached out to the critical services agencies we are supporting during the Covid-19 response, along with 14 non-critical services agencies, to assess whether GCDO could lodge digital initiatives on behalf of the whole system, or support digital initiatives from specific agencies. There does not appear to be a need for system-wide bids at this time, with most agencies targeting Budget 2021.

Summary of draft Budget initiatives

7. The following table summarises the draft bids as they currently stand. More detail is provided in the attached Treasury templates.

Initiative	\$ million
Out of scope	
Covid Card Funding is sought to conduct a prototype of the Covid Bluetooth card. This will prove the technology and operational processes before a full rollout.	9(2)(f)(iv) (2019/20 only)
Out of scope	

Out of scope

Recommendations

8. We recommend that you:

Action sought	Timeframe
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Colin Holden
General Manager System Strategy and Initiatives

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