

# Hon Carmel Sepuloni



## MP for Kelston

Minister for Social Development

Minister for Disability Issues

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples

Guenter Langenbucher  
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18 JAN 2019

Tēnā koe Guenter Langenbucher

Thank you for your email dated 20 November 2018 asking why New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) and section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 are out of the scope of the work that the Welfare Expert Advisory Group are undertaking.

Although you made your request under the Official Information Act, as you have asked for my opinion rather than making a request for Official Information as defined by the Official Information Act I have treated your request as ordinary correspondence.

The formation of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) was the first step in supporting the overhaul of the welfare system as it relates to means-tested benefits. The WEAG has a broad-ranging mandate and will provide advice to the Government by 28 February 2019 about the current welfare system, and how it can be fairer and more accessible going into the future. You can read more about WEAG on the following website: <http://weag.govt.nz/>. There will be further announcements about my work to improve the welfare system as it progresses, and I encourage you to visit: [www.beehive.govt.nz/minister/hon-carmel-sepuloni](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/minister/hon-carmel-sepuloni) for on-going updates.

As Minister for Social Development I have requested separate information from Ministry of Social Development officials to provide advice to me on NZS settings. This advice will cover a number of aspects of NZS, including the direct deduction policy. It is important that careful consideration is given to all of the aspects of existing superannuation policy so I can best consider whether any changes to the policy settings for NZS are required.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this response is helpful.

Ngā mihi nui

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

Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Minister for Social Development