

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel overseas from Saturday 8 June 2019 to Sunday 16 June 2019 to attend the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP) 2019 in New York, USA and to discuss accessibility legislation with my counterparts and officials in Ottawa, Canada.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

New York, USA

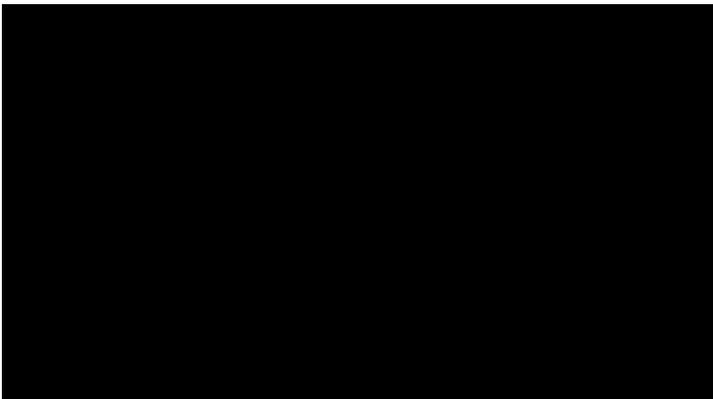
- 3 In New York, I will attend COSP 2019. The theme for this years' COSP is 'Ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD', this focus is to enable disabled people to participate fully in every way. An example of this is Robert Martin being the first person with an intellectual disability to be elected on to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 4 As the Government is supporting Robert Martin's re-election for membership of the UN Committee, attending COSP 2019 will provide me with an opportunity to initiate Robert's election campaign and show our support on the ground. The election will take place at the next COSP meeting in 2020.
- 5 The disability sector have told me that accessibility is an important issue for them here in New Zealand, and in attending COSP I will have the opportunity to learn directly from other jurisdictions on their approach. There will be opportunities for myself and the New Zealand delegation to participate in a range of side events, including a round table event on 'Inclusion of Disabled People in Arts and Culture' which brings together two of my portfolios: Disability Issues and Arts, Culture and Heritage. There may also be an opportunity for me to host or co-host an event.
- 6 As leader of the delegation I will give New Zealand's Statement to the UN Committee. This statement is important as it maintains New Zealand's presence on the international stage, and shows our ability to be influential in the disability sector. Having a Ministerial led delegation at COSP highlights our commitment to disabled people.

Ottawa, Canada

- 7 Canada has had accessibility legislation at a provincial level for a number of years, and last year accessibility legislation was also introduced at a Commonwealth/Federal level. The Access Alliance of New Zealand (a collective of disability organisations) are working with us on the development of a more accessible New Zealand. They have indicated that the Canadian approach is one New Zealand could learn from.
- 8 The purpose of my visit to Canada would be to meet with my counterpart Ministers and other officials to see how this legislation is being implemented, and to learn from the Canadian experience. The focus would be on: the benefits of the approach they have used, the effective engagement of private business, and what else needs to be in place to ensure the legislation works. There would also be the opportunity for me to learn about the mechanisms Canada has in place to effectively progress the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Ministerial Party

- 9 I will travel with one Ministerial Advisor.



Acting Ministers

- 11 I propose that Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues.

Proactive release

- 12 This paper will be proactively released on my return to New Zealand, which is within the 30 work days required by CO (18) 4.

Recommendations

- 13 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 13.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 8 June 2019 to 16 June 2019, to attend the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP) 2019 in New York, USA and to discuss accessibility legislation with my counterparts and officials in Ottawa, Canada.

- 13.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 13.3 approve the estimated expenditure of [REDACTED] for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 13.4 agree that in my absence Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues;
- 13.5 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues