

The Government has already begun a programme of training technologists. This programme is being extended, to bring in more women and more Maoris and Pacific Islanders—the groups who are not getting equal opportunity at the moment through shortcomings in the science teaching that reaches them. A positive discrimination programme is underway. More funds will be put into this work for the future.

Training is a key element of a comprehensive labour market policy. However it will not by itself enable all those who want to work to have that opportunity. To ensure that people can achieve their full potential, assistance will be required for other elements such as job search and the identification of new employment opportunities. The Government will be making a careful study of the needs of those who have difficulty in obtaining work to ensure that its labour market policies will not cause adverse effects elsewhere in the economy.

A number of reviews of education have been undertaken over the last twelve months. They include the curriculum review, the learning and achieving report on senior secondary schools, the review of special education, the report on the quality of teaching and the report on the management, funding, and organisation of continuing education and training.

The Government's on-going evaluation of the quality of education and its rigorous assessment of performance in education will allow education to make its proper contribution to our economic and social development.

The Government is fully committed to achieving a more just and compassionate society. The reports of the two Task Forces on Social Welfare Services and Income Maintenance are being considered. It is expected that decisions will be announced on those reports in the near future.

The Government intends to meet more adequately the needs of the Maori community. It is committed to the implementation of "Puaote-Atatu", the Maori Perspectives Advisory Committee's report to the Minister of Social Welfare, which identified a number of major concerns and directions for change.

The Government will be considering proposals for changes to health benefits taking into account the recommendations of the 1986 Review of Health Benefits, along with such recommendations as may be made by the Royal Commission on Social Policy and the Hospital and Related Services Task Force. Legislation will be introduced into the House to give effect to changes as necessary.