

**Report:**  
**How the Government**  
**is getting on with the**  
**Disability Action Plan**



**6-monthly report:**  
**July 2020 to December 2020**



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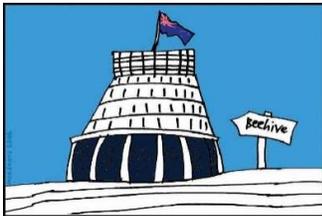


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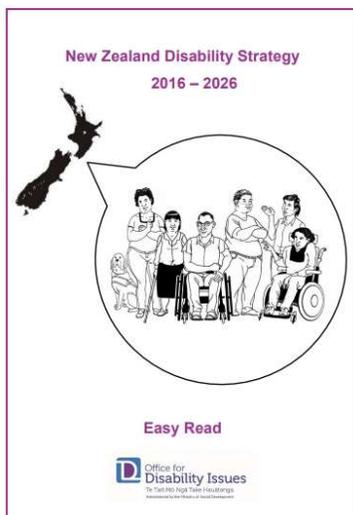
# What is this report about?



This Easy Read document is a report about how well the **Disability Action Plan** is working.



The **Disability Action Plan** is how the Government will make the **New Zealand Disability Strategy** happen.



The New Zealand Disability Strategy works to make sure disabled people:

- are treated fairly
- get what they need to have a good life
- are part of the community
- can make their own decisions.



There are Easy Read translations about the:

- New Zealand Disability Strategy
- Disability Action Plan.



You can find these Easy Read translations on the Office for Disability Issues **website**:

**<https://www.odi.govt.nz>**

# What is the Disability Action Plan?



The Disability Action Plan started in November 2019.

The Disability Action Plan works to improve the **wellbeing** of disabled people by working on 8 main **outcomes**.



**Wellbeing** means how people feel about their lives.



Wellbeing can be things like:

- how you feel about your life
- health
- money
- housing.





**Outcomes** are the things we want to happen from the Disability Action Plan.

These outcomes are:



1. Education



2. Jobs and money



3. Health and wellbeing



4. Protecting the rights of disabled people



5. Accessibility



6. Attitudes towards disability



7. Disabled people having choices and control over their own lives



8. Disabled people as leaders.



You can find more information about the things being worked on in each of these outcomes in the Disability Action Plan.

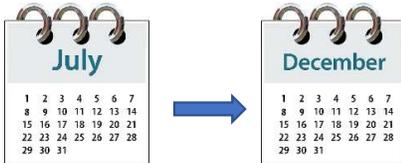
You can find this Easy Read translation on the Office for Disability Issues **website**:



<https://www.odi.govt.nz>



Every 6 months the Office for Disability Issues puts out a report about what the different parts of Government are doing from the Disability Action Plan.



This report looks at what the different parts of Government did from **July 2020** to **December 2020**.



These reports are one of the ways to see how well the Disability Action Plan is working.



This report is the second report they have done.

## What has happened so far?



The Disability Action Plan has 29 work programmes.



The people working on 20 of these programmes reported their work is going well.



The people working on these programmes said they are meeting the goals set out in the Plan.



Some people said they are further ahead than planned.



The people working on 6 of the programmes reported they have not done as much as the plan said.



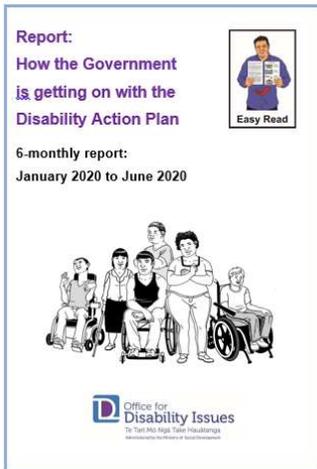
The people working on these programmes said they think they will still finish their work on time.



2 of the work programmes have had problems doing their work on time.



The people working on these programmes said that there are risks or issues that could make it hard for them to finish their work on time.



Some important things have been done by different Government departments.

In this Easy Read report we look at some examples of good work that has been done by:



- the Ministry of Education



- the Ministry of Social Development



- the Ministry of Health



- the Ministry of Justice



- the Department of Corrections



- Waka Kotahi - the New Zealand Transport Agency



- Kāinga Ora.

# What the Ministry of Education has done



The **Ministry of Education** is a part of the New Zealand Government.

It is in charge of places like:



- early childhood learning
- schools
- universities.



The Ministry of Education is looking at **Outcome 1** of the Disability Action Plan.

Outcome 1 is about **Education**.



The Ministry of Education is trying to make sure that all young people get the right support.



The Ministry of Education set up an online system for:



- Learning Support Coordinators
- Special Education Needs Coordinators.



The job of the **coordinators** is to:

- train teachers how to support students with disabilities
- plan the support needs of young people in schools
- support learners
- support family / whānau members.

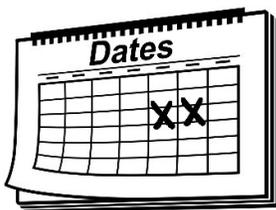




**Autism New Zealand** tested out a new training course called **Tilting the Seesaw**.

This course is for:

- family / whānau
- caregivers
- support staff
- teachers
- teacher aides.



The people who take part in this course work together for 2 days.



On the course they learn better ways to support children on the autism spectrum.



**He Pikorua**  
Our Practice Framework

A new **practice framework** called  
**He Pikorua** was set up.



A **practice framework** is a set of goals that makes sure a piece of work is done right.



He Pikorua helps to guide the work of:

- the Ministry of Education
- people working in learning support.

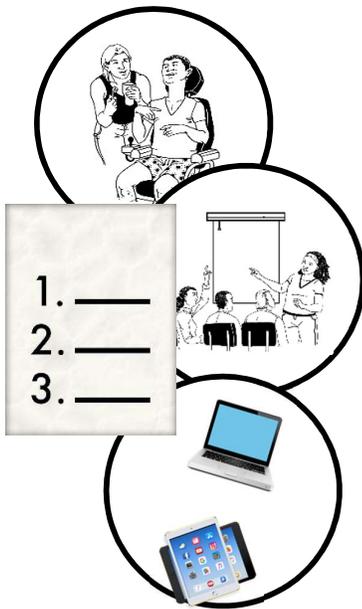


Having this guide means that better support can be given to:

- disabled ākonga or students
- their family / whānau.



The Ministry of Education did a trial test of a **Standardised Learning Support Register**.



A **register** is used to collect facts about:

- schools
- disabled students
- their learning support needs.



The register will:

- make it easier to keep track of learning support needs
- show the number of learners around the country who need support
- show the progress of a student over time.

A service called **Employment Service in Schools** is going to be tested in February 2021.

Employment Service in Schools is for high school students who have:

- a disability
- health problems
- a mental health condition.



Employment Service in Schools is for:

- students
- family / whānau
- schools.



It supports students to make plans about:

- any adult learning they want to do when they leave school
- what work they want to do when they leave school
- work they want to do over their life time.



This service is only a test to see how well it works for people.

The test will go until June 2022.



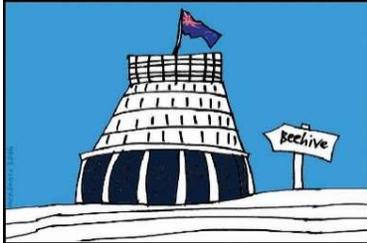
When it is finished the Ministry will:

- look at how it is going
- check if things need to be changed
- see if they need to offer this in more places around New Zealand.



This information will be in the next Disability Action Plan report.

# What the Ministry of Social Development has done



The **Ministry of Social Development** is a part of the New Zealand Government.



The Ministry of Social Development is also known as the **MSD**.



MSD supports people with things like:

- finding a job
- getting money if you do not work
- getting money if you are studying
- finding a place to live.





MSD is looking at **Outcome 2** of the Disability Action Plan.



**Outcome 2** is about:

- **jobs**
- **making sure people have enough money to live a healthy life.**



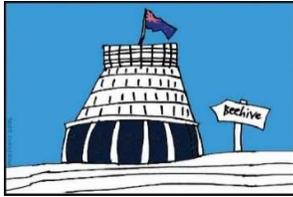
In August 2020 the Ministry of Social Development put out a plan called **Working Matters**.



**Working Matters** is a Disability Employment Action Plan.



This plan goes across all of the different parts of the Government.



It will help to guide:

- government agencies
- workplaces
- unions.

A **union** is a group that protects the rights of its members.

Every person who works has the right to join a union.



This action plan aims to make sure there is good work available for:

- people with disabilities
- people with health conditions.



In 2020 MSD decided to focus on 22 important things.



They hope this will make their service better for disabled people.



They will work together with different agencies to get this work done.



Many of these agencies are involved in the disability sector.



They hope to finish this work in 2022.

# What the Ministry of Health has done



The **Ministry of Health** is a part of the New Zealand Government.



The Ministry of Health is in charge of health care in New Zealand.



The Ministry of Health is looking at **Outcome 3** of the Disability Action Plan.



**Outcome 3** is about:

- **health**
- **wellbeing.**



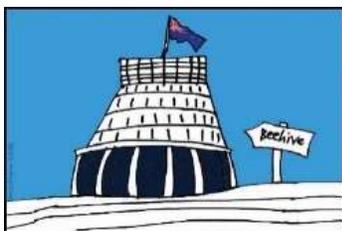
The Ministry of Health is leading a number of work programmes in the Disability Action Plan.



1 of their work programmes is working to replace the **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992**.



They want to change this and replace it with new legislation.



**Legislation** is a law that is made by the Government.



This new legislation will follow the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



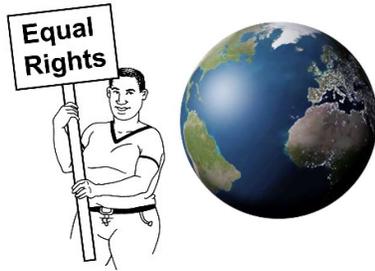
This is sometimes called the **CRPD** or **Disability Convention**.



The **United Nations** or **UN** is a group made up of representatives from different countries.



**Representatives** are people who are chosen to speak up on behalf of others at the UN.



The Disability Convention is a worldwide agreement that protects the rights of people with disability.



The Disability Convention says what UN member countries have to do to make sure that disabled people have:

- the same rights as everyone else
- the same chance to do things as everyone else
- good care
- good treatment
- a good life.



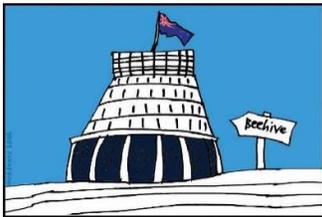


There is an Easy Read booklet called:

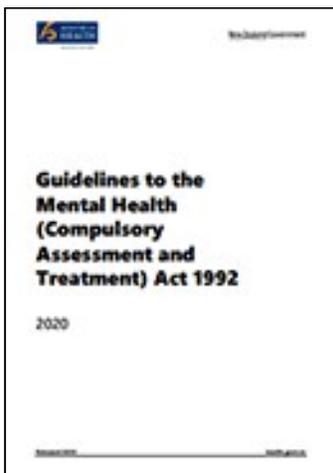
## **International agreement on the rights of disabled people**

You can find this booklet on the Office for Disability Issues **website**:

<https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/easy-read-un-convention.pdf>



In August 2020 the Government agreed to make some changes to the Mental Health Act.



In September 2020 the Ministry of Health published a document with the changes agreed to by the Government.

This document is called **Guidelines to the Mental Health Act**.



The document was made to guide:

- mental health services
- providers.



The Guidelines to the Mental Health Act document is a guide to give a better focus on **human rights**.



A **human right** is something that:

- we are born with
- should never be taken away from us.



Rights are things like:

- making your own choices
- being listened to
- speaking up.





The Guideline will make the work services do fit better with:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** or the **Treaty of Waitangi**
- feedback the Ministry of Health has heard from people with lived experience.



The Ministry of Health is giving training support to services to help bring in these new changes to the Mental Health Act.

# What the Ministry of Justice has done



**The Ministry of Justice** is a part of the New Zealand Government.



It is in charge of things like:

- courts
- prisons
- police
- less people breaking the law
- supporting **victims**.

A **victim** is a person who is harmed or injured during a crime.



The Ministry of Justice is looking at **Outcome 4** of the Disability Action Plan.



**Outcome 4** is about **protecting the rights of disabled people.**



1 work programme is supported by the **Department of Corrections.**



The Department of Corrections worked on a Sexual Violence Bill that was given to to Parliament in June 2020.



The Bill was made to change some things in the law to:

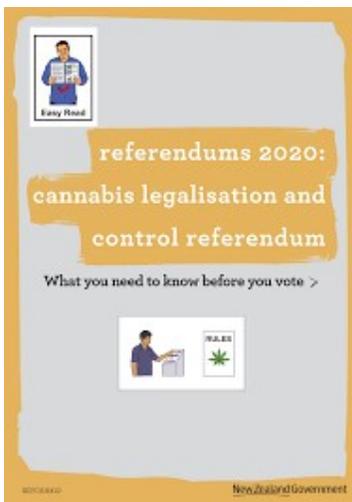
- protect victims of sexual violence
- reduce the scary or painful memories that come when victims have to give evidence in court.





Another piece of work the Ministry of Justice did was during the 2020 Election.

The Ministry of Justice has an Electoral Programme.



Their Electoral Programme delivered accessible resources for the referendums about the:

- End of Life Choice Act
- Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill.



The Ministry of Justice also improved the way they collect information about people with disability.



Having better information means that they can make better services to support disabled people.

# What the Department of Corrections has done



The **Department of Corrections** works to make New Zealand a safer place by:



- keeping the public safe from people who can cause harm



- stopping people who come out of prison from doing another crime.



The Department of Corrections does this by making sure that people who broke the law follow the rules of their:



- criminal sentences
- court orders.



The Department of Corrections helps when someone comes out of prison by:

- putting them into a programme that helps them get used to being out of prison
- getting them into school or university
- helping them get job training.



This supports them to have a better life when they leave prison.



The Department of Corrections is also looking at **Outcome 4** of the Disability Action Plan.



The Department of Corrections has an **Accessible Justice** work programme.



The Department of Corrections is working to set up a system for disabled people in prison.



The system will give better support for disabled prisoners by:



- giving the right support needs to prisoners when they arrive in prison
- making sure that relationships with family / whānau or other support networks are kept in place
- making sure they collect **data** on prisoners with disability.



**Data** means information about things.



The Department of Corrections is working to have this set up by March 2021.



The Department of Corrections is looking to see if they need to change their signs to make them more accessible.



They plan to finish this before the end of 2021.

# What Waka Kotahi has done

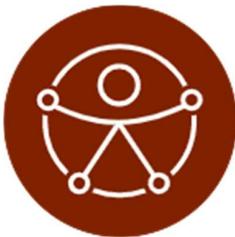


**Waka Kotahi** is the New Zealand Transport Agency.



Waka Kotahi looks after things like:

- transport safety
- road signs
- driving licences.



Waka Kotahi is looking at **Outcome 5** of the Disability Action Plan.



**Outcome 5** is about making things **accessible**.



Waka Kotahi is doing research to:

- better understand the transport experience of disabled people
- look at the barriers that are there for people who want to use the **Total Mobility** scheme.



**Total Mobility** is a scheme for people with:



- disabilities
- long term impairments.



It provides:

- electronic cards or vouchers that make transport cheaper
- funding so providers can get accessible vehicles for wheelchair users.

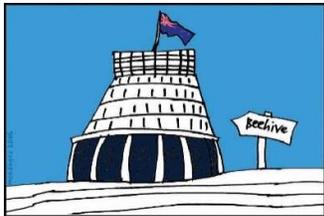




**The Ministry of Transport** will look at all of the research when it is done.



**The Ministry of Transport** is a part of the Government.



This research will let the Government know what they need to do to make transport better for disabled people.

# What Kāinga Ora has done



Kāinga Ora is an agency for:

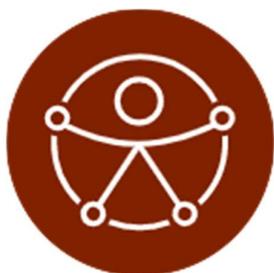
- homes
- community.



Homes. Land.  
Community.

It brings together the people from:

- KiwiBuild
- Housing New Zealand
- Homes. Land. Community.



Kāinga Ora is also looking at **Outcome 5** of the Disability Action Plan.

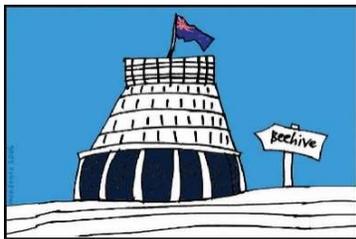
Kāinga Ora works on building projects with:



- **developers**
- the Māori community

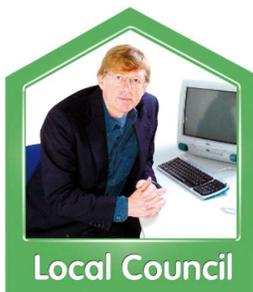


**Developers** are people who build lots of homes.



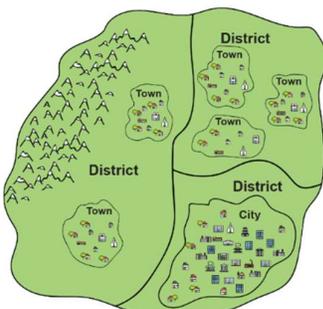
Kāinga Ora also works with:

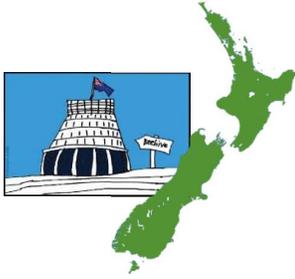
- **local government**
- **central government.**



**Local government** is in charge of:

- regions
- towns
- cities.

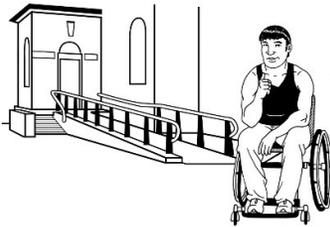




**Central government** is in charge of the whole country.



Kāinga Ora has put an **Accessibility Work Programme** into place.



This will guide their projects to be more accessible.

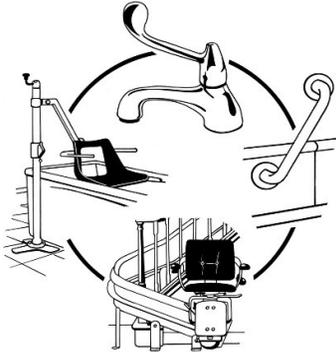


They want to make more of the homes they are in charge of line up with **universal design standards**.

This means making a house or building accessible right from the design stage.



Systems to support this will be in place by **June 2021**.

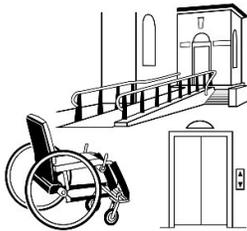


For properties that are already built  
Kāinga Ora wants to modify the buildings  
so people can be more independent.



They will work with the people using  
these buildings so they can:

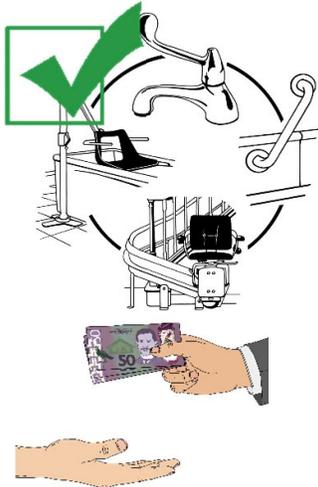
- find out the individual needs of the people using the buildings
- put the right support systems in place.



In 2020 they had meetings with the:

- Ministry of Health
- Accident Compensation Corporation / ACC.





These meetings were about changing processes so it is easier to get:

- the go ahead to make changes.
- the money needed to make these changes.



This work is still happening.

Kāinga Ora also wants to improve:



- the accessibility of Kāinga Ora properties
- the information they have about the needs of their customers.



Kāinga Ora are doing a test to find out how much money it will cost to make their properties more accessible.



They will use what they learn from this test as a guide for making their properties more accessible.



Kāinga Ora are looking at how to make their properties accessible in 18 new towns around New Zealand.



They planned to start making the changes to these buildings in the first 4 months of 2021.



Kāinga Ora is going well with their properties in the Hutt Valley.

## What has not been done



**Outcome 6** in the Disability Action Plan is about **Attitudes towards disability**.



**Attitudes towards disability** means changing the ways people think about disability.

This means we want disabled people to be:



- understood
- accepted.



This outcome will change attitudes by ending the negative ideas that some people have about disability.



This will be done by:

- making sure we know more about the needs of disabled people
- making sure disabled people are involved in more projects about changing attitudes towards disability
- listening to disabled people.



There was no agreed work programme for Outcome 6 in this reporting cycle.

Even though no work programme has looked closely at attitudes towards disability:



- attitudes will improve if disabled people are involved in the projects
- the way we think about disability will be better if other programmes are done right.



## Where to find more information



You can find more information about what other government agencies have done in the full report called:

**Office for Disability Issues:  
Bi-annual Progress Report –  
July to December 2020**



You can find this report on the Office for Disability Issues website:

**<https://www.odi.govt.nz/>**



You can contact the Office for Disability Issues:



**Phone: 04 916 3300**

**Email: [odi@msd.govt.nz](mailto:odi@msd.govt.nz)**



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