



Expression of Interest – do you want to join the Accessibility Advisory Group?



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Whakataukī



A whakataukī is a Māori saying that shares an important message.



Kia hiwa rā kia hiwa rā.

Kia kōkiri ake, kia mataara.

He karanga atu ki te ao whānui
ki te ao whaikaha.



Haere mai ōu whakaaro rangatira ki
tēnei kaupapa whakahirahira nau mai
e te iwi e.



Here are the English words of the
whakataukī.



Be watchful, be alert.

Rise up, come forward.



Be counted, be alert.

A call going out to the world, to the
disabled world.



We welcome your chiefly thoughts to
this important discussion.

We welcome all.

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is from the **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha**.



The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** works to make things better for disabled people by working with:

- the Government
- the community which includes:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha
Māori / Māori disabled people
- businesses.





In this Easy Read when we say **Whaikaha** this means the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.

Where it says **we / our** this means Whaikaha.



We are leading work to make **accessibility** better in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Accessibility means making sure disabled people can be part of something.



We are making the **Accessibility Advisory Group** to support us to do this work.



In this document the **Accessibility Advisory Group** will be called the **rōpū / group**.



We are looking for people to join the rōpū / group.

What is the Accessibility Advisory Group?



Members of the rōpū / group will give us advice on how to make accessibility in Aotearoa New Zealand better.



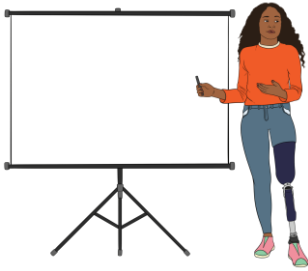
The rōpū / group will have 10 people from the disability community in it.



We want the members of the rōpū / group to:

- be creative / come up with interesting ideas
- know lots of things about accessibility issues
- be **strategic thinkers**.





A **strategic thinker** is someone who knows:

- what is going on with an issue
- how to make plans
- how to use information to solve problems.



The rōpū / group will:

- use tikanga / Māori ways of doing things
- use whakawhanaungatanga / Māori ways of getting along with people
- know what is important to other **cultures** about accessibility.



Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.

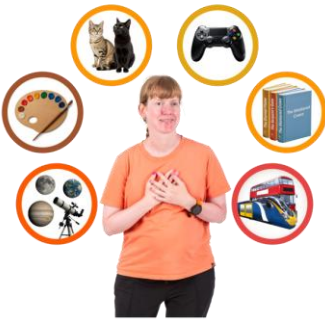
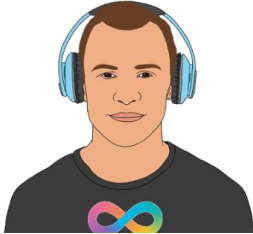
What kind of people does Whaikaha want?



We are wanting people for the
rōpū / group who are:

- disabled
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- Turi Māori / Māori deaf people
- from the Deaf community
- Pacific disabled peoples / Pacific person with a disability
- **neurodivergent**
- whānau / families of disabled people
- carers of disabled people.





Neurodivergent people have brains that are different to:

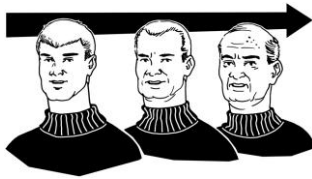
- how most brains work
- what some people think our brains should be like.

For example neurodivergent people include people who:

- are autistic
- have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder / ADHD.



We are also wanting people for the
rōpū / group who are from
diverse / different:



- backgrounds / kinds of lives
- parts of the country
- age groups
- **genders**
- identities.



Gender is if you are:

- a man
- a woman
- another gender like nonbinary.



We want people for the rōpū / group who are committed to:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**
- **the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- The Human Rights Act 1993
- our **Strategic Intentions**.





Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi is an important agreement between:

- Māori
- and
- the Crown.

The purpose of Te Tiriti is to:

- protect Māori:
 - **rights**
 - taonga / things that are very important to Māori
- keep **peace and order**
- set up government.



Rights are things that the law says every person should:

- have
- be able to do.



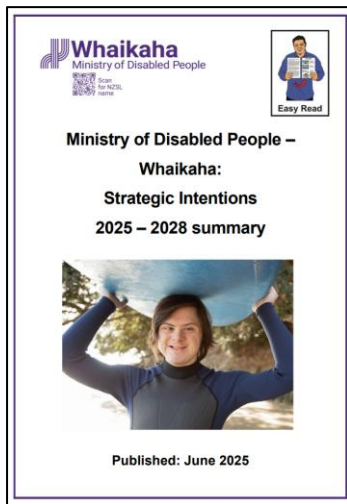
Peace and order means to follow laws / rules.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / UNCPRD** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



You can find the Easy Read version of our **Strategic Intentions** at this **website:**

<https://tinyurl.com/58eb9fzc>

How much work will the rōpū /group do?



The rōpū / group will meet online 4 to 6 times a year.



We would like the first meeting to be:

- in person
- in Wellington.



Members of the rōpū / group will be paid for the:

- time they spend at the meetings
- work they do to get ready for the meetings.





We will provide for supports like:

- New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL interpreters
- captioning
- meeting assistance
- note takers
- travel costs.



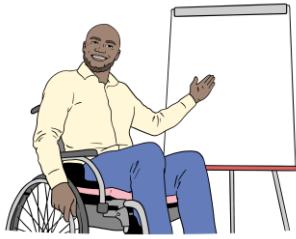
The members of the rōpū / group will elect a **co-chair** of the group.



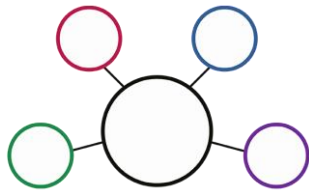
A **co-chair** is a person who shares leading a group with someone else.



1 or 2 members of the rōpū / group will also be part of the Whaikaha **Steering Group** for the **Accessibility Work Programme**.



A **steering group** is a group of people who lead the work being done on something.



The **Accessibility Work Programme** is a list of the work that will be done to make accessibility in Aotearoa New Zealand better.

How much do rōpū / group members get paid?



Rōpū / group members will get paid 61 dollars an hour for:



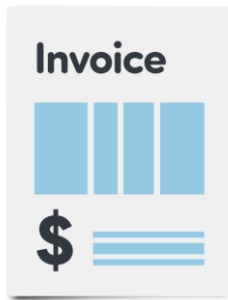
- each meeting which goes for 4 hours
- up to 2 hours for getting ready for the meetings.



The co-chair will be paid 77 dollars an hour for:



- each meeting which goes for 4 hours
- up to 2 hours for getting ready for the meetings.



Rōpū / group members will **invoice** Whaikaha after each meeting.



An **invoice** is a type of letter you send asking to be paid for work you have done.



The letter has information like:

- how many hours you worked
- the rate / money you get paid every hour
- where the money should be sent like a bank account.



What skills and experience do rōpū / group members need?



We want people who:

- understand accessibility
- understand **barriers**

and



- can come up with solutions / answers.



Here **barrier** means something that stops things from being accessible for disabled people.



We want people who think it is important to include everyone especially:

- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- Turi Māori / Māori deaf people
- Pacific peoples.



We want people who understand:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi
- how **kaupapa Māori** works to make things better in Aotearoa New Zealand.





Kaupapa Māori means using all the parts of Māori:

- knowledge
- skills
- attitudes
- values / things that are important.



We want people who:

- have worked on accessibility projects
- know how to advocate / speak up for disabled people
- understand **social change**.





Social change means:

- doing work that makes things better for people
- supporting people to understand how those changes work for everyone.

We want people who have good connections in:

- their community
- the Government
- business.



We want people who understand how things work in:

- the Government
- the **public sector**
- **private enterprise.**



The **public sector** is the organisations that do work for the Government.

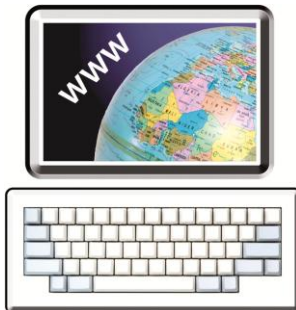


Private enterprise is the companies / businesses that are not part of the Government.

How to apply



Applications must be put in by
3 November 2025.



You can download the Expression of
Interest form at this **website**:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/aag

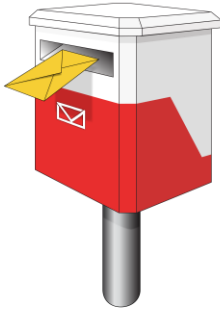


You can send your filled in form by
email to:

outreach@whaikaha.govt.nz



If you would like to apply using a
video recording please email us a link
to your video.



You can send your filled in form by
post to:

**Outreach and Innovation Group
Ministry of Disabled People –
Whaikaha**

Reply Paid: 262204

PO Box 1556

Wellington 6140



You do not need to put a stamp on
the envelope.

What happens next?



A panel of people from the disability community will consider / think about all the people who have applied to join the rōpū / group.

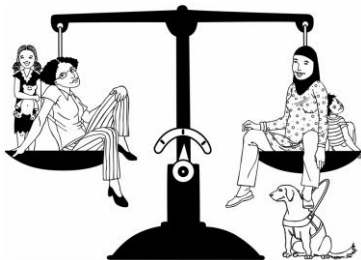


This panel will be chaired by us.



The panel / group will choose people by:

- using the ideas from Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi
- thinking about what people can do to make things equal for:
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
 - Turi Māori / Māori deaf people.





We will let people know they are being considered / thought of for the rōpū / group by Friday 14 November 2025.



We will let people know if they are a rōpū / group member by Friday 28 November 2025.



The first meeting of the rōpū / group is planned to be:

- in person
- in Wellington
- on Friday 12 December 2025.





This information has been written by the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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