



Cabinet paper – Confirming the status of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill



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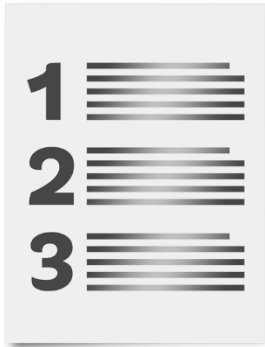
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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of a **Cabinet paper**.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the full document
- includes the main points of the information.



A **Cabinet paper** is a document:

- from a **minister**
- asking **Cabinet** to agree to something.



A **minister** is an important person who works in the Government.



Cabinet is a group of ministers that meet to make decisions.

The Cabinet paper is:



- about the Accessibility for New Zealanders **Bill**
- from the Minister for Disability Issues Hon Penny Simmonds.

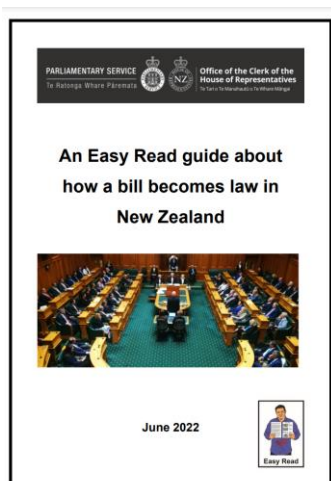


Every law starts off as a document called a **bill**.

The bill says what the idea for the **law** is.

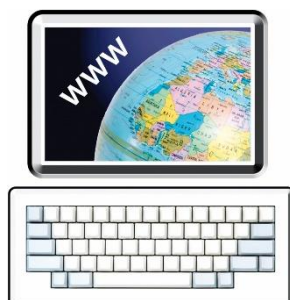


Laws are the rules that everyone in New Zealand have to follow.



There is an Easy Read document called:

An Easy Read guide about how a bill becomes law in New Zealand.



You can find this Easy Read here:

tinyurl.com/4kcs8fcb



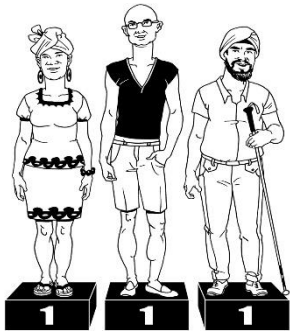
In this Easy Read:

- the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill will be called **the Bill**
- Hon Penny Simmonds will be called **the Minister**
- when you see the words **disabled community** this includes:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori
 - people who live with accessibility difficulties.

The main idea of the Bill



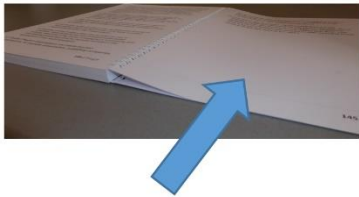
The Bill was made with the goal of making New Zealand **fully accessible**.



Here **fully accessible** means people from the disabled community have the same chance to reach their goals as everyone else.



The main idea in the Bill is to make an Accessibility Committee as a **Ministerial Advisory Committee**.



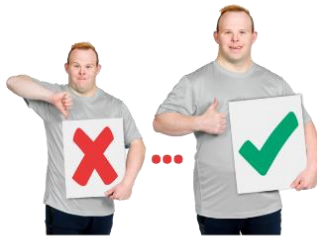
A Ministerial Advisory Committee

is a group of people who:

- know a lot about something
- give suggestions to Ministers about something
- usually do not work for the government.

More information about the Accessibility Committee is on the next page.

Accessibility Committee

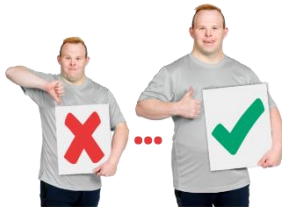


The Accessibility Committee would:

- find **accessibility barriers**
- make **recommendations** to the Minister on how to fix the accessibility barriers
- have up to 10 members
- have members who are part of the disabled community
- keep track of how accessibility is getting better in New Zealand
- report to the Minister about how accessibility is getting better in New Zealand.



Accessibility barriers are things that stop something from being accessible.



Recommendations are ways to make something better.



The Accessibility Committee would also listen to what the disabled community have to say about accessibility.



The Bill has information about the **responsibilities** others have about the work the Accessibility Committee does.



These include:

- Ministers
- Chief Executive of Whaikaha.





Here **responsibilities** mean things people would have to do for the Accessibility Committee.



The Minister of Disability Issues would have to:

- tell the Accessibility Committee what the Government thinks about their recommendations
- show the report done by the Accessibility Committee to the **House of Representatives**.



The **House of Representatives** is in **Parliament**.



Parliament is where **Members of Parliament** make important decisions about how New Zealand should be run.



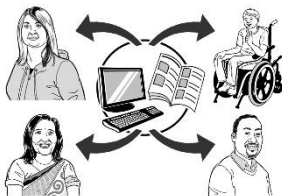
Members of Parliament are:

- the people you vote for at election time
- called MPs.

The bill also has information on how the:



- Accessibility Committee members will be chosen
- Accessibility Committee will be given the information they need
- work program will be set.



Why the Bill is important



There are over 1 million disabled people in New Zealand.

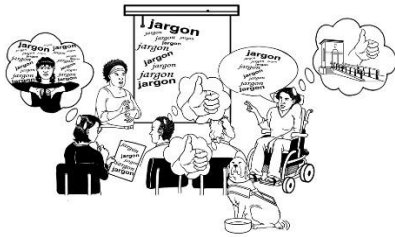


Most disabled people deal with accessibility barriers around:

- work
- education like school
- where they live.



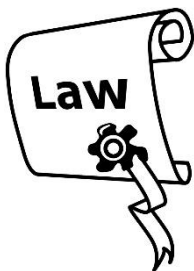
This means disabled people have a harder time:



- getting a good education
- working in a job that pays well
- living in a nice place
- taking part in the community around them.



The disabled community has asked for **accessibility legislation** for a long time



Accessibility legislation is laws around accessibility.

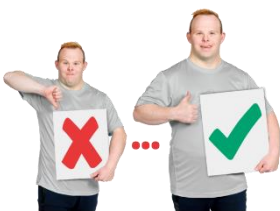


Accessibility legislation supports people from the disabled community to:

- live with the people they choose to
- be part of the community around them.



New Zealand does not have systems / way of doing things that make accessibility important.



Not having a system / way of doing things means work has been slow on making accessibility better.

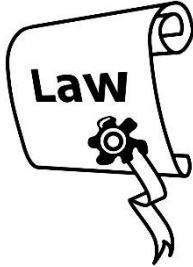


The Bill is an important step to making a **framework** to support better accessibility in New Zealand.



Here **framework** means a system / rules for checking that things are working as they should.

Progress on the Bill so far



Here **progress** means how close the Bill is to becoming part of the law.



Parliament was told about the Bill on 28 July 2022.



The Bill passed its **First Reading** on 2 August 2022.



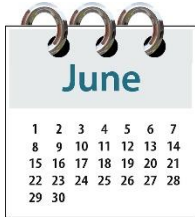
The **First Reading** is when MPs talk about the bill.



If more than half of the MPs vote yes then the bill is sent to a **select committee**.



A **select committee** is when a smaller group of MPs take a closer look at the bill.



The Social Service and Communities Committee looked at the Bill in June 2023.



This Committee:

- supported the idea of more laws around making accessibility better
- think the Bill needs changes to be better.



The Minister thinks the changes the Social Service and Communities Committee said the Bill needs would:



- only be good for fixing some accessibility barriers
- cost more money
- be harder to manage.



The Minister has asked for more research to be done on:



- accessibility legislation in other countries
- things that need to be made better in the accessibility legislation in New Zealand
- what the disabled community in New Zealand think.





The Minister has put in a **legislation bid** for this Bill.



A **legislation bid** is when Ministers put in bills that they think should be part of the **legislation programme** for the next year.



A **legislation programme** is all the bills that Ministers think should be part of the law.



All the bills in the legislation programme are put into 9 categories.

The Minister has put this Bill in
category 8 – on hold.



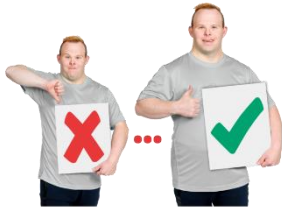
Category 8 – on hold means:

- it is not going to be part of the legislation programme in 2024
- there is more time to work on the changes the Social Service and Communities Committee said the Bill needs.



The Minister will decide what to do
with this Bill in early 2025.

Human rights implications



Implications means things that will happen because of the Bill.



Making accessibility better will mean the of disabled people will have their **human rights** looked after better.



Human rights are things everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.



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



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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