



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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New Zealand Disability Strategy Refresh: Approval for Approach and Consultation

Portfolio Disability Issues

On 11 March 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that the current New Zealand Disability Strategy (the Strategy), provided for under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, will expire in 2026;
- 2 **noted** that the Minister for Disability Issues (the Minister) intends to develop a refreshed Strategy over the course of 2025, for release on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2025;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister intends to put in place a five-year Strategy 2026-2030 with a vision, principles, and actions that set clear expectations in sectors that are priorities for both disabled people and the Government, and align with the Government Targets;
- 4 **noted** that public consultation on a draft Strategy will take place in the second half of 2025, subject to Cabinet's decisions on the paper under SOU-25-SUB-0017 and approval of the draft strategy by relevant portfolio Ministers;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister has re-established a Ministerial Disability Leadership Group to drive collective action for disabled people across Government priorities, which can oversee the progression of the Strategy, with core members including the Ministers for Disability Issues, Social Development and Employment, Housing, Health, Education, Local Government, and Children, with other Ministers to be invited as required;
- 6 **authorised** the Minister to develop the new Strategy with a vision and principles to guide all work for disabled people, and with priority Outcome Areas of Education, Employment, Health, Housing and Justice;
- 7 **approved** the proposed approach to engagement and consultation outlined in the paper under SOU-25-SUB-0017, including the establishment of working groups made up of officials, disability community representatives, and sector or industry members to develop clear actions under the Strategy Outcome Areas referred to in paragraph six;
- 8 **authorised** the Ministerial Disability Leadership Group and the Minister of Justice, as the portfolio Ministers responsible for the proposed Outcome Areas referred to in paragraph six, to approve the draft Strategy for public consultation later in 2025;

- 9 **noted** that the Minister will report back to SOU if there are any aspects of the draft Strategy that could be particularly significant or controversial;
- 10 **invited** the Minister to report-back to SOU by November 2025 to seek agreement to the final Strategy.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet