

# Appendix 3 – Updated government response and progress reporting on UNCRPD recommendations

## Purpose

This document reports to Cabinet on progress in implementing the 63 Concluding Observations (recommendations) made by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2022. It includes updates on:

1. **Section One:** Response to the recommendations considered through the NZ Disability Strategy refresh (pp. 2-8)
2. **Section Two:** Progress updates on recommendations with work due to be completed by the end of 2025 (pp. 9-16)

## Background

- In December 2024, the Government agreed the following response to the UNCRPD recommendations [SOU-24-MIN-0155 refers]:
  - 30 recommendations had actions for implementation;
  - 17 recommendations would be considered through the refresh of the NZ Disability Strategy; and
  - 16 recommendations were noted with no action currently planned.
- The Government agreed that the UNCRPD recommendations, actions, and progress indicators would be published on the online tool – the Human Rights Monitor<sup>1</sup> to promote accountability and transparency. This was completed in July 2025.
- The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha coordinates the all-of-government response to implementing the UNCRPD. The Ministry is also responsible for implementing a number of the recommendations.

## Progress on Recommendations

- Out of the 63 UNCRPD recommendations, 46 are now being progressed, and 17 of them do not have actions currently proposed.
- Of the 17 recommendations considered through the refresh of the NZ Disability Strategy:
  - 14 will be progressed through the Strategy. In some cases, other work led by relevant agencies also responds to these recommendations;
  - Two will be progressed by other work led by relevant agencies (not through the Strategy); and
  - One is noted with no action currently planned.
- These will be published, along with progress indicators, on the Human Rights Monitor in early 2026.
- Progress on 19 recommendations with work due to be completed by end of 2025 has been reported on (Section Two). This reporting will also be uploaded to the Human Rights Monitor.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Monitor. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. <https://humanrights.govt.nz/category/17>

## Section One: Response to the UNCRPD recommendations considered through the NZ Disability Strategy refresh

This section sets out the response to the 17 recommendations that the Government agreed to consider as part of the refresh of the New Zealand Disability Strategy. It shows in three tables:

- Table one: the 14 recommendations that will be progressed through the New Zealand Disability Strategy and other work led by relevant agencies;
- Table two: the two recommendations that will be progressed by other work led by relevant agencies (not through the Strategy); and
- Table three: the one recommendation for which there is no action currently planned.

Note that the UN Committee's concerns and recommendations were made in 2022, and some issues and work programmes the Committee identified are no longer current in 2025.

### Table one: Recommendations that will be progressed through NZ Disability Strategy actions and other work led by agencies

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work <b>GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 6 (a):</b> Develop strategies to strengthen commitment across all government portfolio areas to ensure disability is recognized as a cross-cutting issue, that meaningful partnerships are developed with organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure close consultation and active involvement in legislative and policy processes to implement the Convention, including co-design, co-production and co-evaluation, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are appropriately resourced to build capacity to participate in partnerships across government portfolio areas.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The lack of recognition, across all government portfolio areas, that disability is a whole-of-government responsibility, the lack of engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities outside the ministry of disability portfolio, and the lack of appropriate resourcing for organizations of persons with disabilities to build capacity to meaningfully engage in legislative and policy processes.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation is being progressed through the development of the NZ Disability Strategy itself. The Strategy was developed by Government agencies working together with members of the disabled community and sector experts who provided advice as part of Working Groups for each outcome area, with Ministers making final decisions.</p> <p><b>Other work:</b> <b>Ministry of Disabled People -</b> The Ministry of Disabled People has the lead responsibility for providing coherent system-level leadership and stewardship that aligns priorities and focus across government. The Ministry also has a lead role in supporting other government organisations to connect with the diverse needs of disabled people.</p> <p>The Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition has been funded through a conditional grant from 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027 to meet its objectives as a member of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM). Total funding for the DPO Coalition has increased to \$1,275,000 over three years, an increase of \$120,000 over previous funding, split between the seven member organisations.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 14 (a):</b> Adopt and fund a comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups, the media and government officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in order to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The lack of a comprehensive national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> <b>Ministry of Disabled People -</b> This recommendation is being progressed through the NZ Disability Strategy itself. The Strategy includes actions to raise disability awareness and responsiveness in health, education, justice, and employment.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 58:</b> The Committee recommends that the State party, in conjunction with Statistics New Zealand, develop a national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations contained in the Convention, especially with regard to Māori persons with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> Data is a cross-cutting issue across the whole of the NZ Disability Strategy. The Strategy includes actions to strengthen data about the experiences and outcomes of disabled people across health, education, housing and justice which will help to progress this recommendation. Data, in particular disaggregated data, is critical to inform, enable, and monitor the implementation of all NZ Disability Strategy outcome areas. As part of this work, the Data and Insights team at the Ministry of Disabled People has developed a measurement framework and indicators to monitor progress on the Disability Strategy at a system level. There are also several proposed actions within the strategy which will support better disability data. The team also collaborates with Stats NZ, other government agencies, disability organisations and key advisory groups such as the Disability Data and Evidence Advisory Group and the Insights Alliance to improve disability data collection and use and ensure it is inclusive and culturally appropriate—particularly for Pacific and Māori communities.</p>

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work
<p><b>Concern:</b> The Committee notes with concern the serious shortcomings with regard to data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities across all life domains, including in health, education, employment and justice. It also notes with concern the lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of Māori persons with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>Other work to progress this recommendation:</b>  <b>Statistics NZ and Ministry of Disabled People -</b>  Stats NZ, in partnership with the Ministry of Disabled People, will develop a disability data framework to monitor outcomes for the range of obligations in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This is being set up as a project, with appropriate governance including external experts, to scope and progress this work and to effectively engage with the disabled community and key stakeholders.</p>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO HEALTH</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 36 (a):</b> Immediately place a moratorium on sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures performed without personal consent, and take urgent action to adopt uniform legislation prohibiting such procedures on women and girls with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> (Serious concern) The lack of action by the State party, in response to the Committee's 2014 concluding observations, to address the fact that parents can consent to sterilization of their children with disabilities and to also address laws that allow for the use of sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures with regard to women and girls with disabilities without their personal consent.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be partially progressed through Health action 1 in the Strategy about reviewing and improving policies and practices to improve disabled people's experiences interacting with the health system. Tools and practices to support disabled people's self-determination and supported decision-making in the health system will be important to ensure sterilisation, contraception and abortion procedures will not be performed on disabled women and girls without their consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health action 1:</b> Review and improve policies and practices, so the health journey is equitable, accessible and inclusive. This review will cover all interactions with the health system: communication, information, technology, decision-making, service design and delivery, and the built environment. Self-determination will be key, including making sure tools for self-determination and supported decision-making are standard practice in health care – especially for people with different communication, cognitive or psychosocial needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other work to progress this recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>Health NZ -</b>  Health NZ is progressing with developing its Safeguarding Policy and the accompanying work programme. Health NZ has made a commitment within the Health NZ Plan Te Pae Waenga (1 July 2024-30 June 2027) to action 4.3.2 Design and implement the disability model of care with a focus on infrastructure, workforce capability and capacity, policies, processes, practices and information accessibility.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 36 (d):</b> Adopt legislative provisions to prohibit growth attenuation treatment (Ashley Treatment), including a prohibition on procedures sought outside New Zealand.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> (Serious concern) The lack of legislative provisions to prohibit Ashley Treatment or growth attenuation treatment for children with disabilities, including to prohibit accessing these procedures outside New Zealand.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be partially progressed through Health action 1 in the Strategy about reviewing and improving policies and practices to improve disabled people's experiences interacting with the health system. Tools and practices to support disabled people's self-determination and supported decision-making in the health system will be important to ensure procedures will not be performed on disabled children without their and where appropriate, their caregivers, consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health action 1:</b> Review and improve policies and practices, so the health journey is equitable, accessible and inclusive. This review will cover all interactions with the health system: communication, information, technology, decision-making, service design and delivery, and the built environment. Self-determination will be key, including making sure tools for self-determination and supported decision-making are standard practice in health care – especially for people with different communication, cognitive or psychosocial needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other work to progress this recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>Health NZ -</b>  Health NZ is progressing with developing its Safeguarding Policy and the accompanying work programme. Health NZ has made a commitment within the Health NZ Plan Te Pae Waenga (1 July 2024-30 June 2027) to action 4.3.2 Design and implement the disability model of care with a focus on infrastructure, workforce capability and capacity, policies, processes, practices and information accessibility.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 36 (f):</b> Develop measures to ensure reporting and data collection on sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures performed without personal consent, on non-urgent medical interventions performed on intersex children and on growth attenuation treatment.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> (Serious concern) The lack of data in relation to sterilization and abortion procedures performed on persons with disabilities without their</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be partially progressed through Health action 1 in the Strategy about reviewing and improving policies and practices to improve disabled people's experiences interacting with the health system. Tools and practices to support disabled people's self-determination and supported decision-making in the health system will be important to ensure procedures will not be performed on disabled children and women without consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health action 1:</b> Review and improve policies and practices, so the health journey is equitable, accessible and inclusive.</li> </ul>

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work
<p>personal consent, non-urgent medical interventions on intersex children without their consent and growth attenuation treatment.</p>	<p>This review will cover all interactions with the health system: communication, information, technology, decision-making, service design and delivery, and the built environment. Self-determination will be key, including making sure tools for self-determination and supported decision-making are standard practice in health care – especially for people with different communication, cognitive or psychosocial needs.</p> <p><b>Other work to progress this recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>Health NZ -</b> Health NZ is progressing with developing its Safeguarding Policy and the accompanying work programme. Health NZ has made a commitment within the Health NZ Plan Te Pae Waenga (1 July 2024-30 June 2027) to action 4.3.2 Design and implement the disability model of care with a focus on infrastructure, workforce capability and capacity, policies, processes, practices and information accessibility.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Health -</b> In early 2025, the Ministry of Health completed the first periodic review of timely and equitable access to contraception, sterilisation and abortion services in New Zealand. As part of the review, the Ministry developed a work programme to identify areas to improve timely and equitable access across these three areas, including data collection and reporting for the disabled community. *Note that this review included the commissioned report "Abortion is a Human Right and Health Issue: Disabled People's Experiences of Abortion Services in Aotearoa New Zealand".</p>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO HOUSING</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 16 (c):</b> Adopt the principle of universal design and commit to a target of 100 per cent accessibility for any newly built public housing and introduce mandatory accessibility requirements for new housing constructed by the private sector.</p> <p><i>(Note that policy responsibility for public/social housing sits with HUD. Responsibility for the building code and requirements for construction in the private sector lie with MBIE).</i></p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The lack of affordable and accessible housing and the modest target of 15 per cent accessibility for new build public housing.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be progressed through the following Housing actions in the Strategy which support the broader goals of recommendation 16(c). Understanding the barriers to accessible housing and identifying the most effective interventions is essential to improving supply, affordability and accessibility. The work towards clearer definitions of accessible homes would include the principles of universal design. With the development of publicly available voluntary accessibility guidelines, these actions aim to increase understanding of how to build accessible housing and to reduce barriers for developers seeking guidance. These efforts will raise awareness of accessibility requirements and enable the Government to set practical expectations for homeowners and builders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing Action 1:</b> Develop, consult on and promote clear definitions of accessible homes. These will describe key features of different levels of accessibility (for example, from basic universal design through to fully accessible). Clear definitions of accessible homes can support the development of voluntary guidelines for accessibility for residential dwellings (housing action 6).</li> <li>• <b>Housing Action 2:</b> Improve data matching between disabled people and social housing properties with appropriate accessible features that meet their needs. This will help ensure disabled people and their whānau are prioritised to accessible properties. Data matching will identify disabled people's housing needs and social housing that meets those needs. This is particularly important for those with high and/or complex needs. Data collected could inform future investment in the supply of social housing.</li> <li>• <b>Housing Action 3:</b> Identify any barriers to increasing supply of affordable, accessible houses in the private market and investigate how these barriers could be removed. Understanding barriers to the supply of accessible housing will help target potential interventions to improve supply.</li> <li>• <b>Housing Action 5:</b> Collect and publish annual data on disabled people's housing needs, to compare with the housing being built in each region. This could help encourage the housing market to produce more accessible housing. This will help to fill the gap in data on accessible housing and raise the profile of the demand for accessible homes. Data can also be used to measure progress in increasing the supply of accessible housing.</li> <li>• <b>Housing Action 6:</b> Develop voluntary national guidelines on accessibility for residential dwellings. Guidelines would be based on the definitions for accessible homes in housing action 1 and would set out best practice guidance for how to build accessible homes.</li> </ul>

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work
<p><b>Recommendation CO 42:</b> Take measures to ensure the affordability of necessary assistive devices, modification services and mobility aids, including assistive technology for persons with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The Committee is concerned that as a result of funding caps and the high cost of assistive devices and equipment, persons with disabilities are unable to afford the appropriate assistive devices, modification services and mobility aids.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Housing Action 7:</u> Review the social housing system, including considering the diverse needs of disabled people and how these could be addressed.</li> </ul> <p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> Where it relates to housing modification, this recommendation will be partially progressed through Housing action 4 in the Strategy about improving the housing modification system. Addressing inefficiencies in the housing modification system could reduce current problems including the inaccessibility of homes, increased costs, and health and safety issues for disabled people, whānau and carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Housing Action 4:</u> Review the housing modification system and look at ways to improve it. Making the housing modification system more efficient could reduce current problems: inaccessibility of homes, increased costs, and health and safety issues for disabled people, whānau and carers.</li> </ul>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO JUSTICE</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 8 (a):</b> Amend the Human Rights Act of 1993 to include an explicit recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination and include a legislative definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with the meaning provided in article 2 of the Convention.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The lack of an explicit provision within the Human Rights Act of 1993 to recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be considered through Justice action 5 in the Strategy, as part of any review of human rights legislation that may be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 5:</u> Review, as work programmes allow, protections for disabled people in family law, including adoption, guardianship and personal property rights. Reviews will consider where stronger provisions or support are needed, supported decision-making, and using plain language in key justice sector legislation and processes. Reviewing human rights legislation, including whether additional protections against discrimination are needed, should also be considered as work programmes allow.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 8 (b):</b> Adopt the legal and other measures necessary to provide for explicit protection from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on the intersection between disability and other identities and life status, such as age, sex, gender, race, indigenous status, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status, ethnicity, migratory status and national origin.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> Multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including for Māori and Pasifika persons with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be progressed through the following Justice actions in the Strategy. Early intervention plays a vital role in protecting disabled children and young people from discrimination by promoting their development, fostering inclusion and shifting social attitudes toward disability. The lack of effective disability supports is a driver of entry into the care and protection and youth justice system. Reviews of key legislation can consider any additional protections against discrimination that may be needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 3:</u> Develop a social investment plan for early intervention and support, to reduce disabled children and young people entering the youth justice system.</li> <li>• <u>Justice Action 5:</u> Review, as work programmes allow, protections for disabled people in family law, including adoption, guardianship and personal property rights. Reviews will consider where stronger provisions or support are needed, supported decision-making, and using plain language in key justice sector legislation and processes. Reviewing human rights legislation, including whether additional protections against discrimination are needed, should also be considered as work programmes allow.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 28 (b):</b> Repeal provisions within the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act of 2003 that allow for persons with disabilities to be detained for periods of time exceeding the maximum length of the sentence they would be liable to in the criminal justice system.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act of 2003, which includes extensions to compulsory care orders and which allows persons with intellectual disabilities to be detained for periods of time exceeding the maximum length of the sentence they would be liable to in the criminal justice system.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be progressed through Justice action 4 in the Strategy. The review referred to in this action will be a first step to considering the impacts of this framework on the rights and liberties of disabled people: The Law Commission is expected to begin its review of the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003, administered by the Ministry of Justice, in late 2025. Understanding the key issues relating to alternative pathways for disabled defendants is a critical first step in addressing the natural justice issues identified by this recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 4:</u> The Law Commission has been asked to review the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003 (CPMIP). This review is expected to look at the interface of the CPMIP with other relevant legislation, such as the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 and Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.</li> </ul>

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work
	<p><b>Contextual comment:</b> Compulsory care under the IDCCR Act is not correctional detention, nor intended as a punishment for the crime that the person has been charged or convicted with. Instead, it provides individuals with support to learn skills and positive behaviours and length of care is determined by whether the person is assessed as being able to live independently and safely. In 2023, the MDP launched the High and Complex Framework, which works alongside the IDCCR Act to provide diversionary pathways away from prison for people with intellectual disabilities.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 30:</b> The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate action to eliminate the use of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices in places of detention.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The Committee is seriously concerned about the continued, and in some cases prolonged, use of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in places of detention.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be progressed through the following Justice actions in the Strategy. Implementing a safeguarding framework for residential care facilities, prisons and youth justice facilities is expected to address safety and safeguarding issues in these settings. Addressing gaps in data and evidence related to the experiences of disabled people across the justice sector will improve the visibility of abuse and neglect experienced by disabled people in all settings and enable the development of more targeted and appropriate supports and safeguards. Improving the disability competence of the Justice sector workforce would lead to more highly trained staff who are more confident in managing difficult situations without needing to use seclusion and restraint practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 1:</u> Implement a safeguarding framework for disabled people in long-term detention settings (such as prisons and youth justice residences) and Disability Support Services funded residential facilities. The framework will include preventing, reporting, responding, and safely removing disabled people from abusive situations.</li> <li>• <u>Justice Action 2:</u> Carry out a cross-agency project to fix gaps in information about disabled people's experiences of crime. This will include disabled people in residential and secure facilities, and issues like cyberbullying.</li> <li>• <u>Justice Action 7:</u> Create a plan to train the justice sector workforce so it is more disability competent, including Deaf cultural competence and using mana and trauma informed practices. This plan will increase disabled people in the workforce and consider mandatory professional standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other work:</b> The <b>Department of Corrections</b> has work underway that is published on the Human Rights Monitor. An update is in Section Two.</p> <p><b>Oranga Tamariki -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Use of force and the RSYO Bill:</u> The <a href="#">Oranga Tamariki (Responding to Serious Youth Offending) Amendment Bill (RSYO Bill)</a> introduces safeguards for the use of force against young people on a military-style academy programme. Safeguards include expressly prohibiting the use of mechanical restraints against a young person.</li> <li>• <u>Professionalising the residential workforce:</u> There is also a focus on professionalising the workforce within residential care, with funding for a new initiative confirmed through Budget 25. In the meantime, Oranga Tamariki has work well underway to improve training and raise standards in residences, which includes appropriate use of force, secure care and reporting and maintaining safety in residential environments.</li> </ul> <p><u>Standard Operating Procedures for Youth Justice residences</u> - Development of these Standards commenced in 2023, drawing on the Practice Approach, including a focus on disability and the rights of children and young people in youth justice residences. Published Standards that are part of residential practice include use of searches, secure care, use of force, risk assessments, aggressive behaviours, shift planning and debriefing amongst others.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 34:</b> The Committee recommends that urgent action be taken to amend legislative and policy frameworks that facilitate violence, abuse and neglect in institutions, to remove persons with disabilities from institutional settings with adequate support for living in the community, to investigate and sanction institutions and perpetrators and to provide victim and recovery support services and redress.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities in existing institutional settings experience violence, abuse and neglect that</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be progressed through the following Justice actions in the Strategy. The connections between this recommendation and Justice Actions 1 and 2 are similar to those described above for CO 30. Improved disability competence in the Justice workforce will ensure disabled people's rights and needs are consistently considered, and the workforce would have the right skills to implement safeguarding frameworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 1:</u> Implement a safeguarding framework for disabled people in long-term detention settings (such as prisons and youth justice residences) and Disability Support Services funded residential facilities. The framework will include preventing, reporting, responding, and safely removing disabled people from abusive situations.</li> </ul>

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through the Strategy and/or other work
<p>is similar to that exposed by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into abuse in care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 2</u>: Carry out a cross-agency project to fix gaps in information about disabled people's experiences of crime. This will include disabled people in residential and secure facilities, and issues like cyberbullying.</li> <li>• <u>Justice Action 7</u>: Create a plan to train the justice sector workforce so it is more disability competent, including Deaf cultural competence and using mana and trauma informed practices. This plan will increase disabled people in the workforce and consider mandatory professional standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other work to progress this recommendation:</b></p> <p>The <b>Department of Corrections</b> has work underway that is published on the Human Rights Monitor. An update is in Section Two.</p> <p><b>Oranga Tamariki –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care</u> - As part of Budget 2025, Oranga Tamariki received \$16 million to reduce abuse and harm in care. The funding is for improvements to safeguarding and reducing abuse and harm to children and young people in community and remand homes and in the care of individual caregivers. s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> <li>• <u>Responding to Abuse in Care Legislation Amendment Bill</u> - The Bill improves safety settings in care and protection and youth justice residences by clarifying timeframes for secure care placements, banning strip searches, and requiring personalised search plans. It also authorises entry searches and imaging scanners in youth justice residences to prevent harmful items and ensure safety.</li> <li>• s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendation CO 46 (a):</b> Repeal section 8 of the Adoption Act of 1955 and amend the statute to ensure that parents with disabilities are treated on an equal basis with other parents with respect to adoption.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The lack of action by the State party, in response to the Committee's 2014 concluding observations, to repeal section 8 of the Adoption Act of 1955, which allows for children to be removed for adoption from parents with disabilities without their consent.</p>	<p><b>NZ Disability Strategy:</b> This recommendation will be considered through Justice action 5, which directly responds to the UN Committee's concerns about children being removed for adoption from disabled parents without their consent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Justice Action 5</u>: Review, as work programmes allow, protections for disabled people in family law, including adoption, guardianship and personal property rights. Reviews will consider where stronger provisions or support are needed, supported decision-making, and using plain language in key justice sector legislation and processes. Reviewing human rights legislation, including whether additional protections against discrimination are needed, should also be considered as work programmes allow.</li> </ul>

Table two: Recommendations that will be progressed through other work led by agencies

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach to progressing recommendations through other work
<b>GENERAL RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 56:</b> The Committee recommends that the State party develop strategies and measures, including financial resources to support persons with disabilities to form sustainable representative organizations, including to support the development of organizations of Māori persons with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, children with disabilities, and women and girls with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People -</b> Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha is investing, through grants, in lifting the capability and capacity of disabled people and disabled-led organisations to lead and to participate as members of boards at the community, regional and national levels. Existing Disabled Peoples Organisations are supported to continue outreach, social networking, advocacy and participation in government processes. The Ministry will continue to fund DPOs for their work monitoring the UNCRPD and as a trusted and reliable mechanism for engagement on policy which impacts disabled people.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for persons with disabilities to form their own sustainable organizations and build their capacity to represent persons with disabilities, and in particular the lack of organizations to represent Māori persons with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Disabled People is committed to ensuring that a range of disabled people's experiences contribute to its work. Disabled people are also seeking other mechanisms to engage with the Ministry and government on disability matters. The Ministry will work with disabled people to consider how government funding can sustain the important role of DPOs, while ensuring representation of tāngata whaikaha Māori.</p>
<b>RECOMMENDATION RELATED TO HOUSING</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 16 (a):</b> Expedite implementation of the Building Act of 2004 and commit to targets and time frames for implementation measures.</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The slow progress in implementing the Building Act of 2004, which prolongs inaccessibility to public buildings and the progressive upgrade of existing buildings.</p>	<p><b>Standards NZ / MBIE and Ministry of Disabled People -</b> Scoping a revision of New Zealand Standard NZS 4121:2001 <i>Design for access and mobility: Buildings and associated facilities</i> to increase accessibility of public buildings.</p> <p>Standards New Zealand (funded by the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha) commissioned an environmental scan to identify overseas standards and regulations in building access for disabled people and to inform cost-efficient interventions appropriate for New Zealand. This scan has been completed, and the report has been finalised. This report, with alternate formats of the executive summary, will be published on the Whaikaha website.</p> <p>In November 2025 two scoping workshops with stakeholders are being held to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identify key issues, gaps and improvement opportunities with the current standard</li> <li>b. explore international good practice in disability access and facilities</li> <li>c. define the scope for a potential revision of NZS 4121:2001.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders invited to these workshops include representatives from the disability community and disability organisations, government agencies, and professionals from the building and planning sector.</p>

Table three: Recommendation that does not have work currently planned

UN Committee's recommendations and concerns	Proposed approach
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO JUSTICE</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation CO 8 (c):</b> Provide the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal with the necessary financial and human resources for timely resolution of discrimination complaints</p> <p><b>Concern:</b> The high number of complaints received by the Human Rights Commission on the ground of disability and the significant length of time for the resolution of complaint cases submitted to the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Justice – no action currently proposed</b> The Government will continue to fund the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal through the general budget process.</p>

## Section Two: Progress updates on recommendations with work due to be completed by the end of 2025

In December 2024 the Government agreed to progress 30 recommendations with actions for implementation. The Ministry of Disabled People worked with relevant agencies leading work to respond to these recommendations to develop progress indicators that broke their actions down into key deliverables or process steps. These were published to the Human Rights Monitor online tool in July 2025. The table below includes progress updates on 19 of the 30 recommendations – those whose response include progress indicators due to be completed by the end of 2025. These updates will be published on the Human Rights Monitor in early 2026.

**Table four: Progress updates from agencies on recommendations with work due to be completed by the end of 2025**

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
<b>CO 10 (a):</b> Strengthen measures and policy mechanisms, including within the gender impact statement and the disability perspective statement, to ensure that the issues for women and girls with disabilities, including for Māori, Pasifika persons and migrant women and girls with disabilities, are comprehensively addressed within gender and disability legislative and policy areas.	<p><b>Ministry for Women and Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry for Women will work with the Ministry of Disabled People to ensure Gender Impact Statements are more reflective of the specific needs of disabled women and girls.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Ministry of Disabled People will share the Disability Toolkit for Policy with Ministry for Women by August 2025.</p>	<p>The Disability Toolkit for Policy was shared in July 2025. The Ministry of Disabled People will work with the Ministry for Women to support the application of this Toolkit in their work.</p>
<b>CO 10 (b):</b> Develop strategies and measures, including financial resourcing, to support women and girls with disabilities to develop their own representative organization.	<p><b>Ministry for Women and Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry for Women will work with the Ministry of Disabled People to ensure organisations of disabled women and girls are linked into policy making and consultation processes.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Ministry of Disabled People will share the Disability Toolkit for Policy with Ministry for Women by August 2025.</p>	
<b>CO 14 (b):</b> Strengthen measures for close consultation and active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in the design, development and delivery of awareness-raising programmes about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Strengthen engagement with the disability community.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition has been funded through a conditional grant from 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027 to meet its objectives as a member of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM). Total funding for the DPO Coalition has increased to \$1,275,000 over three years, an increase of \$120,000 over previous funding, split between the seven member organisations. The Ministry of Disabled People will continue to work to strengthen the role of DPOs.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> The Ministry of Disabled People will review and update the guidance on 'engaging with the disability community' on the Ministry's website by the end of 2025. This will include providing contact information and guidance for effective and accessible engagement.</p>	<p>An initial mid 2025 review has resulted in changes and updates to key pages of the Whaikaha website. Additional work has been identified, and further materials will be incorporated before the end of 2025. This will strengthen engagement with the disability community by ensuring that information is up to date and publicly available.</p> <p>Engagement with the disability community continues through the DPO Coalition, including ongoing operations of the Strategic Advisory Group and establishment of an Accessibility Advisory Group by the end of 2025.</p> <p>The strength of relationships and community capability continues through the implementation of a specific community grants programme.</p>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
<b>CO 16 (b):</b> Adopt and implement an accessibility strategy underpinned by the principle of universal design to eliminate existing access barriers, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, such as persons of small stature.	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Develop a work programme to enable government to make concrete, tangible improvements in accessibility within the current regulatory framework</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The Ministry is working with other agencies to consider what actions can be taken to reduce accessibility barriers over the short term.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> The Ministry of Disabled People will establish an Accessibility Advisory Group in 2025 to inform a medium to long term accessibility work programme. The advisory group is expected to agree an ongoing approach to supporting the work programme, including prioritisation of initiatives.</p>	<p>The Accessibility Work Programme continues with a focus on Built Environment, Digital and Information, Emergency Management, Transport and other key initiatives.</p> <p>A Whaikaha Internal Steering Group has oversight, and the Accessibility Advisory Group will be established before the end of 2025.</p>
<b>CO 20:</b> Closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in designing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery measures, informed by the recommendations contained in the report on making disability rights real in a pandemic, prepared by the Independent Monitoring Mechanism in 2021	<p><b>Ministry of Health</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry of Health is undertaking national pandemic planning and preparedness for future pandemic responses.</p> <p><b>Action Description:</b> The Ministry of Health considers the emergency response to COVID-19 in New Zealand is over. The Ministry of Health's pandemic and emergency management focus is now on future national planning and preparedness through actions such as the New Zealand Pandemic Plan and supporting improvement of New Zealand's national emergency management system. The Ministry will progress through its business-as-usual pandemic preparedness work the recommendations in the IMM Making disability rights real in a pandemic report (2021) and the key disability-related recommendations from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Publish New Zealand's updated Pandemic Plan, 'New Zealand Pandemic Plan A framework for action'</p>	<p>This work was published in July 2025 and can be found through this link <a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/new-zealand-pandemic-plan-a-framework-for-action">https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/new-zealand-pandemic-plan-a-framework-for-action</a></p>
<b>CO 22:</b> Repeal any laws and policies and end practices or customs that have the purpose or effect of denying or diminishing the recognition of any person with disabilities as a person before the law, and implement a nationally consistent supported decision-making framework that respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Work with an advisory group to create a website with resources on supported decision-making.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The website will include practical resources to support disabled people and others requiring support to make their own decisions in key areas of their lives including health and wellbeing, housing, education and employment.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> The Ministry of Disabled People is due to launch Whaimana - Support My Decisions website by the end of July 2025. The Ministry will contact relevant government agencies to ensure they are aware of this website and its tools by end of 2025.</p>	<p>Whaimana – Support My Decisions website was launched in July 2025. <a href="https://www.supportmydecisions.nz/">https://www.supportmydecisions.nz/</a></p> <p>Whaikaha continues to host and promote the website. The advisory group is being re-established in the last quarter of 2025 and will include cross-government agencies and community representatives. Focus for 2025/26 is on the development of additional resources, including alternate formatted materials.</p>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
	<p><b>Ministry of Justice</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry of Justice will provide advice to the Minister of Justice following the release of the Law Commission's report on adult decision-making capacity law in 2025.</p> <p><b>Action Description:</b> The focus of the review is the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988. The Law Commission intends to provide their final report to the Minister of Justice in mid-2025. The Government will then consider whether to progress any recommendations made for reform of the law.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Consider Law Commission report on adult-decision making and provide advice to the Minister of Justice in 2025.</p>	<p>The Law Commission intend to provide their final report to the Minister of Justice by the end of 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice will consider this report and provide advice to the Minister of Justice in 2026.</p>
<p><b>CO 30:</b> The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate action to eliminate the use of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices in places of detention.</p> <p><i>(Note – this was also considered through the NZDS refresh, with response from Oranga Tamariki in Section One)</i></p>	<p><b>Department of Corrections</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Department of Corrections is addressing the overarching recommendations made by the Inspectorate's 'Separation and Isolation Thematic Report' through a BAU delivery model</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Corrections to report back on progress on recommendations and areas of consideration in six monthly intervals, which will be reported on by the Office of the Inspectorate periodically.</p>	<p>Corrections provided its most recent progress report for the Office of the Inspectorate's Separation and Isolation report in July 2025, which has been published on the Inspectorate's website.</p> <p><a href="https://inspectorate.corrections.govt.nz/reports/thematic-reports/separation-and-isolation-report">https://inspectorate.corrections.govt.nz/reports/thematic-reports/separation-and-isolation-report</a></p>
<p><b>CO 32 (a):</b> Develop measures to address the high rates of violence experienced by persons with disabilities and to combat all forms of gender-based violence for inclusion within outcome area 4 of the New Zealand Disability Strategy</p> <p><b>CO 32 (b):</b> Incorporate gender-specific measures for the disability focus within the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence and ensure specific issues for women and girls with disabilities are mainstreamed throughout the Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Implement Te Aorerekura, the National Strategy for the elimination of family violence and sexual violence.</p> <p><b>Action Description:</b> Te Aorerekura is accompanied by an Action Plan and an Outcomes and Measurement Framework. The development of the Second Action Plan 2024-2029 is underway, and it will reflect a five-year delivery plan for the national strategy. The second action plan will continue focusing on supporting victims, integrating cross-government agency responses, and preventing family violence and sexual violence.</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Completion of system improvement plans with 12 local multi-agency response sites by December 2025. These plans will support the identification and management of high-risk family violence cases and ensure responses are tailored to the specific risks and needs of victims, including disabled people.</p>	<p>System Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been completed in Auckland City, Rotorua, Canterbury, Waitākere, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay. Wairoa and Taranaki SIPs are in final stages of completion and all 12 SIPs are on track for completion by December 2025.</p> <p>Development of the high-risk protocol to support a shared understanding of what high risk looks like is progressing well and on track to be published in December 2025.</p>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
	<p>Publish guidance for a nationally consistent approach to identify and manage high-risk family violence cases by December 2025. The guidance will ensure responses are tailored to the specific risks and needs of victims, including disabled people.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Budget 2023 allocated \$6.11 million to specifically target family violence against disabled people.</p> <p><b>Action Description:</b> Funding supports VisAble, People for Us and Supporting Change initiatives. VisAble works to equip and enable individuals and organisations, working with, or who come into contact with, disabled people, who are impacted by violence, to make their services more inclusive and accessible. It provides a range of tailored services and programmes to assist organisations to implement a rights-based twin-track response in the prevention, identification and response to violence, abuse and neglect against disabled people. MSD will continue supporting the Disability Abuse Prevention and Response prototype as part of work to implement safeguarding responses for disabled adults at risk, Action 28 of the first Te Aorerekura action plan.</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Procurement process for suppliers for the delivery of the Disability Abuse Prevention and Response Service (DAPAR) from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027 completed. Contracted providers to commence service delivery by September 2025.</p> <p>Contracted providers for the People for Us initiative will commence service delivery by end of August 2025.</p>	<p>Service delivery of the Disability Abuse Prevention and Response Service by an expanded group of providers has commenced.</p> <p>Service delivery of the People for Us initiative has commenced.</p>
<p><b>CO 34:</b> Urgent action be taken to amend legislative and policy frameworks that facilitate violence, abuse and neglect in institutions, to remove persons with disabilities from institutional settings with adequate support for living in the community, to investigate and sanction institutions and perpetrators and to provide victim and recovery support services and redress.</p> <p><i>(Note – this was also considered through the NZ Disability Strategy refresh, with response from Oranga Tamariki in Section One)</i></p>	<p><b>Department of Corrections</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Department of Corrections is leading cross-agency work to improve the management of people in prison with significant suspected and diagnosed intellectual disability.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The Department of Corrections, along with other agencies, are working to implement system-based improvements so people with a significant suspected and diagnosed intellectual disability are supported through appropriate criminal justice pathways and can access the supports and services they require.</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Continue to report back quarterly to the Cross-agency Chief Executive Group focused on system improvements for people with significant suspected or diagnosed intellectual disability who have been remanded by the Courts into Corrections' custody.</p> <p>Corrections will facilitate weekly (as required) cross-agency complex case review meetings with relevant agencies involved in the care of individuals with suspected or diagnosed intellectual disabilities potentially inappropriately remanded in custody.</p>	<p>Corrections most recent update to the Cross-agency Chief Executive Group was in July 2025, with the next due in November 2025.</p> <p>Cross-agency complex reviews are progressing. Corrections is trialing a new process to identify potential Intellectual Disability at the Receiving Office, and cases are referred to Social Workers and reviewed. In cases believed to be inappropriate remands are escalated to a cross-agency panel for review and resolution.</p> <p>A communications package is no longer required as each agency manages its own internal comms on its actions and commitments.</p>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
	<p>Corrections' Intellectual Disabilities Pathways team is preparing a communications package which will be shared with leadership representatives from the Cross-agency Chief Executive Group to disseminate to their agencies frontline teams. This package will be available by end 2025.</p>	
<p><b>CO40 (b):</b> Develop a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy, with specific time frames and adequate budgets, to close all residential institutions, including group homes and residential specialist schools, to provide community supports for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> MSD will continue to provide eligible Disability Support Services (DSS) clients with the service and support they need to live at home or in a residential care setting that best suits their and their families' needs and choices.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> In 1973, a Royal Commission on psychopaedic hospitals recommended residents transfer from large institutions to community care. This led to three decades of deinstitutionalisation, including the closure of all large institutions that had cared for disabled people and people with mental health conditions. Most DSS clients who require care for everyday living have care supports in place to live at home or in small community-based residential settings, depending on their needs. Residential care services have a role in the suite of services it provides for disabled people and their families.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Work undertaken in 2025 to improve the safeguarding of disabled people living in residential care services. Work undertaken in 2025 to improve the basis of funding and provision of supports in residential services.</p>	<p>Delivery of the Disability Abuse Prevention and Response Service is being prioritized for disabled people living in residential care services. Improving safeguarding capability is being responded to as part of the Royal Commission of Inquiry Abuse in Care response is in development.</p> <p>Ongoing work to stabilise and strengthen DSS is underway. A new pricing model for residential care in community group homes has been developed to provide certainty and increased flexibility for providers to support disabled people in care.</p>
<p><b>CO 40 (c):</b> Develop measures to remove barriers for persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, including by committing to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing and by reforming programmes, such as the Disability Community Residential Support Services Strategy to prevent congregate living arrangements linked with shared support.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> MSD will continue to provide eligible Disability Support Services (DSS) clients with supports, based on individual assessments, to enable them to live at home or in a residential setting that best suits their and their families' needs.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> Congregate living arrangements with shared support have a role in the suite of services provided to meet the needs of disabled people and their families.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Work in 2025 to consider improvements to the assessment for and allocation of MSD-funded disability support services, and improvements in contracted services provision, including living arrangements.</p>	<p>Ongoing work to stabilise and strengthen DSS is underway including changes to flexible funding and personal budgets and a new pricing model and approach to contracting for residential care in community group homes.</p>
<p><b>CO 44 (a):</b> Strengthen implementation of the Accessibility Charter by expanding its coverage to local authorities and district health boards, and increasing funding and capacity for the provision of accessible information and</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Consider how to strengthen implementation of the Accessibility Charter.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b></p>	<p>In December 2024, the Ministry of Disabled People became responsible for providing an integrated source of government information for disabled people. This role includes overseeing the coordination of alternate formats.</p> <p>Following this transition, the Ministry commissioned a thorough review aimed at stabilising, improving, and evolving the Alternate Format service. The findings and</p>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
communication formats and technologies.	The Ministry of Disabled People will undertake a review of the current Accessibility Charter, including options to strengthen the Charter by the end of 2025. This work will include scoping options to improve the Charter's effectiveness, reach and how agencies report progress.	recommendations from this review were delivered in May 2025.  As a result, the planned refresh of the Accessibility Charter has been rescheduled and is now expected to be completed by the end of 2026. This enables the Ministry to evaluate the Charter within the context of the review recommendations and the development of a 'front door' approach for disability information.
<b>CO 44 (b):</b> Implement incentives and increase funding for the training and employment of sign language interpreters, including trilingual interpreters who can interpret between New Zealand Sign Language, English and Te Reo Māori, and adopt a national standardized accreditation framework for sign language.	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The NZSL Board is considering options for enhancing the quality and quantity of the interpreter workforce, including trilingual interpreters, as part of the New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Strategy refresh.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> Public consultation on the draft NZSL Strategy was undertaken for six weeks from April to June 2025.</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Ministry of Disabled People will provide advice to the Minister for Disability Issues and Cabinet on the refreshed NZSL Strategy before the end of 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry of Disabled People will establish a working group to implement the three-year trial of the non-testing credential by September 2025.</p>	Advice has been provided to the Minister for Disability Issues on the refreshed NZSL Strategy. The final Strategy will be considered by Cabinet before the end of 2025.  Recruitment for a programme lead to implement the trial for interpreter standards is currently underway. The working group for this will be established in early 2026.
<b>CO 44 (c):</b> Adopt legislation to ensure captioning and audio description is provided on television channels with funding security.	<p><b>Ministry for Culture and Heritage</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is working on media reform.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The Ministry consulted on a Media Reform discussion document in February / March 2025 which included a draft proposal to increase captioning and audio description on content that is broadcast or streamed to provide equitable access for all New Zealanders.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> The Minister for Media and Communications will seek Cabinet decisions on the Media Reform package by December 2025</p>	The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is continuing to provide advice to the Minister for Media and Communications on Media Reform
<b>CO 48 (a):</b> Develop an inclusive education strategy that includes measures for the devolution of segregated education settings into a mainstream inclusive education system, to transition funding and resources from specialist education	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Continue to work with disabled communities to identify strategic outcomes and action areas related to inclusive education for disabled learners to be included in the next New Zealand Disability Strategy.</p>	Advice to Cabinet on the content of the New Zealand Disability Strategy has been provided in November 2025.

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
to inclusive education, to prioritize inclusive education in teacher training, to establish uniform, inclusive education policies and guidelines, to develop an inclusive education curriculum and to promote and raise community awareness.	<p><b>Action description:</b> Inclusive education is founded in the Education and Training Act 2020, which states: “people who have special education needs (whether because of disability or otherwise) have the same rights to enrol and receive education at state schools as people who do not”. The New Zealand Disability Strategy is the government’s strategy for realising the rights of disabled people. Consultation on the next strategy will begin in mid-2025</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Provide advice to Cabinet on the content of the next New Zealand Disability Strategy by the end of 2025.</p>	
	<p><b>Ministry of Education</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry of Education is strengthening the measures for disabled people to access education by targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs. The Government's priorities for the education system include stronger learning support: targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs.</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Implementation plan for roll out of approximately 650 Learning Support Coordinators delivered to Minister of Education and Minister of Finance for approval in September 2025.  Report back to Minister of Education and Minister of Finance on the implementation plan for the expansion of the Early Intervention Service to Year 1 of schooling due October 2025.</p>	<p>The implementation plan for rolling out approximately 650 Learning Support Coordinators (LSCs) will be delivered to the Ministers of Education and Finance in October 2025. It outlines a three-year phased approach: 60% of Years 1–8 learners will have access to an LSC in 2026, 80% in 2027, and full coverage by 2028.</p> <p>The implementation plan for the expansion of Early Intervention Service to Year 1 commencing Term 1 2026 will be delivered to the Ministers of Education and Finance in mid-November 2025, following decisions about implementation approaches.</p>
	<p><b>Ministry of Education</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Ministry of Education is strengthening measures to ensure the protection of the right to inclusive education for Māori. This includes a focus on meeting the needs of Māori within the learning support work programme and continuing the work currently underway to strengthen the New Zealand Curriculum and redesign Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, so that the national curriculum is delivering for all students</p> <p><b>Progress indicators:</b> Lift the achievement and attendance of all Māori learners by implementing the Māori Education Action Plan 2024/2025, and updating this plan regularly s9(2)(f)(iv)</p>	<p>Work is still underway on the actions listed in the 2024/2025 Māori Education Action Plan. The Ministry is considering how new actions will be captured.</p> <p>s9(2)(f)(iv)</p>
CO 52 (a): Expedite the development of the Disability Employment Action Plan in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, Māori with disabilities and Pasifika persons with disabilities.	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> As part of the Papa Pounamu Diversity and Inclusion programme, the Ministry of Disabled People holds responsibility for leading the Disability Four-point plan.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> As part of the Papa Pounamu Diversity and Inclusion programme, the Ministry of Disabled People holds responsibility for leading the Disability Four-point plan. This Four-Point Plan</p>	<p>The Ministry of Disabled People has continued worked across the Public Service, local government and with the private sector enhance employment opportunities for disabled people. Examples of progress include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry partnered with the New Zealand Disability Employer’s network to support the Disability Inclusive Pathways Conference in July 2025. Over 130 people attended to discuss work adjustments, pathways to leadership, supporting neurodiversity to create effective</li> </ul>

Committee Recommendation	Agencies and work due to be completed by the end of 2025	Update on progress
	<p>focuses on four key areas for disabled communities in the Public Service: visibility and information, accessibility, employment and closing inequities such as pay gaps.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> The Lead Toolkit refresh undergoes a review process with the DPO Coalition and content is updated by August 2025.</p>	<p>teams, and universal design to enhance customer experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the main conference, approx. 100 central and local government public servants attended the inaugural Public Sector Working Session to discuss and take action on disability data, the four-point plan, accessible (and inaccessible) recruitment practice, barriers to physical access, and reasonable accommodation.</li> <li>Work continued to develop a new employment microsite with practical advice and guidance on employment for disabled people to support employers. This website is expected to be launched in early 2026.</li> <li>Launching the inaugural All of Government Summer Internship programme for disabled students and graduates in November 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CO 54 (c):</b> Ensure people with fetal alcohol syndrome disorder, chronic fatigue syndrome and other chronic and rare conditions have access to the disability support system and are included in disability policies and programmes.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Social Development</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> MSD will consider the eligibility settings for who is eligible to be assessed for MSD-funded disability support services (DSS) as part of its strengthening DSS work.</p> <p><b>Action description:</b> The disability support system is broader than MSD-funded DSS. Within this system, the health sector is responsible for funding disability-related supports and programmes for most disabled older people and for people with neurodevelopmental conditions and health conditions not covered by MSD-funded DSS. ACC is responsible for supporting people disabled through injury.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Work to consider DSS eligibility settings to begin in 2025.</p>	<p>Work to strengthen DSS over time, including operational improvements, is being developed.</p>
<p><b>CO 60 (a):</b> Strengthen its accountability processes and its partnership with the Independent Monitoring Mechanism to track and publicly report on the outcomes and implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Mechanism.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Disabled People</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Continue to strengthen partnership with the IMM, and improve monitoring outcomes and recommendations.</p> <p><b>Progress indicator:</b> Ministry of Disabled People will support the Independent Monitoring Mechanism to meet with the Minister of Disability Issues. Ministry of Disabled People will provide an update to the IMM on progress and consider their feedback by the end of 2025.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Disabled People has met with the Independent Monitoring Mechanism several times this year to discuss progress on the UNCRPD coordination work and the refresh of the NZ Disability Strategy.</p>