NZ Human Rights.
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata
Human Rights Commission

DDEWG stakeholder engagement: a new survey on human rights

Background

The Human Rights Commission is developing for the first time a national survey on human rights issues. Monitoring and reporting on the enjoyment of human rights in Aotearoa is part of HRC's role as a National Human Rights Institution (an independent body that has a legal mandate to promote and protect human rights at a national level).

While HRC uses secondary data to inform much of its work, there is a need to collect its own primary data as well. These data can support HRC in its various functions, including advocacy, holding duty-bearers to account, dispute resolution for discrimination complaints, and reporting to international bodies on human rights enjoyment in Aotearoa.

HRC is currently in the planning stages of developing the survey. Data collection will occur in 2022.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

As HRC is aiming to be a Te Tiriti-based organisation, this means that all our work will involve an approach that aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This project is being co-led by a Tangata Tiriti researcher and a Tangata Whenua researcher, the latter of whom will support the project's Te Tiriti alignment. The human rights aspirations of Tāngata Whenua will be prioritised in the survey, and an appropriately designed mana-enhancing research method will be developed. We are currently approaching further external Tāngata Whenua research/survey development experts for our project advisory group.

Project principles

The following principles will be followed as we undertake this research:

1. The entire research process will be carried out in a way that can be used as an exemplar of a Te Tiriti-based approach.
2. Priority population groups will have sufficient representation to present findings in a disaggregated way; these include groups that have been historically underrepresented in surveys (eg, disabled and rainbow communities).

3. We will focus our data collection on areas identified as priorities that are not being covered in other national surveys (ie complement, not duplicate).
4. Respondents will feel safe to respond freely and will feel comfortable that their data is being protected responsibly.

Survey content

Human rights cover a broad range of areas, including the rights to health, education, employment, and housing. Civil and political rights are also numerous and include issues such as freedom from discrimination, freedom of speech, privacy, religion, and voting rights. Given the possible scope of this survey, it will be important to take a strategic approach to prioritising the issues most pressing and most in need of an evidence base. A literature scan is being undertaken and will help to identify existing evidence and data needs. Other work can be drawn from to understand identified national data gaps, such as the Outcomes Framework supporting the Disability Strategy.

To inform HRC's communications and services to the public, a few key topics have been identified as important to include in the survey:

- knowledge and opinions of human rights
- awareness of HRC and its services
- HRC performance on key initiatives

One purpose of this consultation is to hear from stakeholders their views of additional issues/topics that would be important to consider for inclusion in the survey. At this early stage, we are keen to keep the possible ideas as broad as possible in scope. We will then undertake a prioritisation exercise to determine the topics that will be eventually covered.

Research method

Once we have identified the scope of the survey content, we will develop an appropriate research method to sample respondents and collect the data. This will be designed with the support of a few survey experts that we will be engaging. (If you have recommendations on people with this kind of expertise, we are keen to hear them.)

Discussion points

1. Do you have any general (or specific) advice for us in terms of defining the research scope (ie, survey content)?
2. Are there any disability-related data gaps that you view as important for HRC to be addressing? (see Appendix 1 for a list of indicators in the Outcomes Framework that do not currently have data sources)
3. Do you have any general (or specific) advice for us in terms of defining disability status, the method for sampling, and data collection?

4. Are there other people with whom you would recommend we speak about the project, regarding either the survey content or the method?

Thank you for your time to speak with us. Please feel free to get in touch if you'd like to discuss anything further:

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Appendix 1: Indicators without data sources in the Disability Outcomes Framework

1. Whether disabled people's right to make their own decisions is upheld and they are supported if required (potentially good alignment with the Human Rights Survey)
2. Ability for children to attend first-choice education setting (potentially good alignment with the Human Rights Survey)
3. Children participate in extra-curricular activities
4. Parents/caregivers are aware of and understand rights to an inclusive education
5. Parents/caregivers are satisfied with the availability of education-related information and services
6. Workers feel that their jobs create stresses that can be detrimental to their physical or mental health and wellbeing
7. Satisfaction with reasonable accommodations at current workplace
8. Have seen 3 or more health professionals for the same condition in last 12 months
9. Report discrimination as the main reason they did not see a health professional when they needed to
10. Access to high-quality, inclusive, and culturally appropriate disability support services
11. Have little-to-no difficulty gaining access to health information in accessible formats, that is easy to understand
12. Find difficulty finding, interpreting, and using health information to make effective decisions for health and wellbeing
13. The support you currently receive enables you to communicate as independently as possible
14. Have people to confide in
15. Able to identify HRC as a "go to" place if they experience or witness practices or situations that discriminate against disabled people (potentially good alignment with the Human Rights Survey)
16. Need assistive devices or products and have them (like wheelchairs, glasses, braces)
17. Average time taken to commute to work
18. Access to, and ease of understanding information in accessible formats/platforms
19. Accessible information development, access and retention e.g. NZSL use & development

20. Online services are easy to access, understand and use
21. People who do not use technology can still access services & information they need
22. Recognising practices or situations that discriminate against disabled people (potentially good alignment with the Human Rights Survey)
23. Willingness to intervene when they see a discriminatory practice or situation (potentially good alignment with the Human Rights Survey)
24. Have control over where they live
25. Have control over who they live with
26. Can make plans based on what they want
27. Decide when to share their personal information
28. Availability of support if needed for making decisions
29. Average number of hours New Zealanders have available each day as free time and for personal care
30. Feel they have choice in who provides services -whether funding is directed to services provided by govt (including through contracting to community) or to varied and /or non govt support options
31. (various views on leadership in disability sector)
32. Level of satisfaction with way government has partnered with community (e.g. DPOs) in resolving disability issues
33. Satisfaction of government leadership in addressing disability issues