

# **New Zealand Disability Strategy**

## **2026 to 2030:**

### **Media release from**

### **Minister for Disability Issues**



**Published: August 2025**

# About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **media release**.



A **media release** is a document that tells the **media** important information so they can share that information with all New Zealanders.



Here the **media** means all the ways of sharing news with people like:

- TV
- the radio
- newspapers.



This media release is from the **Minister for Disability Issues**.



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



The **Minister for Disability Issues** is the person in the Government in charge of making things better for disabled people.



The Minister for Disability Issues is Louise Upston.

In this Easy Read we call the Minister for Disability Issues **the Minister** for short.

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

This media release is about the **public consultation** for the **New Zealand Disability Strategy** refresh.



A **public consultation** means asking everyone what they think about something.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** is a group of plans that tells the Government how to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy refresh** is about:

- looking at the New Zealand Disability Strategy
- thinking about what needs to change
- choosing what the New Zealand Disability Strategy will do over the next 5 years.



The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** is in charge of the New Zealand Disability Strategy refresh.



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

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

In this Easy Read we call the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha **Whaikaha** for short.



The public consultation is open until 28 September 2025.



This means you have until 28 September 2025 to have your say.

## What the Minister said



The Minister said that people can now have their say on the **draft** New Zealand Disability Strategy.



A **draft** is the first version of a document.



In this Easy Read we call the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy **the draft strategy** for short.





The Minister said the draft strategy has:

- a **vision** for the future
- clear **goals**
- **actions** that will support Aotearoa New Zealand to make the goals happen.



Here **vision** means ideas about what things should be like.



Here **goals** are how we want things to be.



Here **actions** are things we will do as part of meeting a goal.





There are actions for:

- education / learning
- employment / jobs
- health
- housing
- justice which means things to do with the law.



To write the draft strategy Whaikaha worked together with:

- disabled people
- **organisations.**



Here **organisations** means groups:

- of disabled people
- who support disabled people.



Now Whaikaha wants to hear from:

- the **disability community**
- the **public**.



The **disability community** means:

- disabled people
- whānau / family of disabled people
- people who support disabled people
- groups that speak up for disabled people.





The **public** means everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The Minister said lots of work has been done on the draft strategy in a short time.



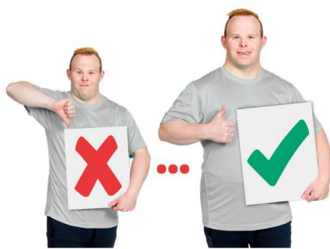
She said everyone who is interested in making things better for disabled people should tell Whaikaha what they think about the draft strategy.



This includes:

- disabled people
- carers
- whānau / family members
- employers.





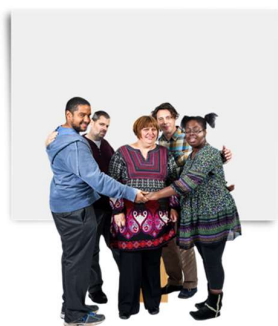
The Minister said the New Zealand Disability Strategy aims to:

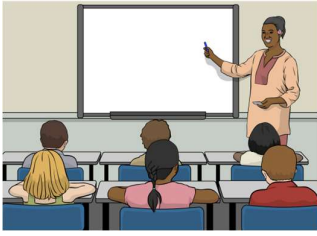
- support disabled people to live better lives
- protect the **rights** of disabled people.



**Rights** are things that everyone should have to be able to live a good life like:

- having a safe place to live
- being kept safe
- getting the services they need.





The Minister said life is harder for disabled people in many ways like in:

- employment / jobs
- education / learning
- housing.



She said 3 out of every 4 disabled people want to have a job.



This means that making sure disabled people can get jobs is an important part of the New Zealand Disability Strategy.



The Minister said that disabled people want to:

- be part of their **communities**
- **thrive**
- **lead**
- make decisions about their own lives.



**Communities** are groups of people who have something the same about them like:

- living in the same place
- being disabled.



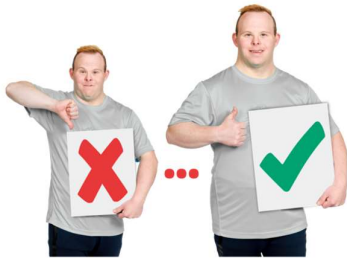
Here **thrive** means being able to:

- live a good life
- do the things you want to do.



Here **lead** means:

- speaking up for disabled people
- working to make life better for disabled people.



The Minister said the New Zealand Disability Strategy refresh is a chance to really make things better for disabled people.



## More information



Aotearoa New Zealand already has a New Zealand Disability Strategy.

This version of the New Zealand Disability Strategy ends in 2026.



We have had this version of the New Zealand Disability Strategy for 10 years.



The new disability strategy will last for 5 years.



It will:

- start in 2026
- end in 2030.

To write the draft strategy Whaikaha worked with:



- groups from the disability community
- **working groups.**



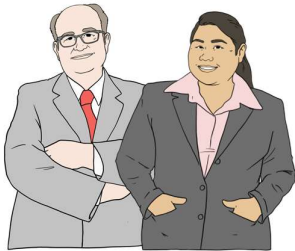
Here a **working group**:

- is a group of people with lived experience of disability
- meets to talk about important things to do with the New Zealand Disability Strategy refresh.



The working groups had:

- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori
- people from the Government
- **industry representatives.**



An **industry** is a group of businesses who do the same kind of work.



A **representative** is someone who speaks for a group.



This is the first time Aotearoa New Zealand has used working groups to write something like the New Zealand Disability Strategy.



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



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



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