

# **Draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030**

## **Part 3: Vision and principles**



**Published: August 2025**

## Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



# What you will find in here

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## About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is part of the **draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030**.



**Draft** means writing something for the first time.

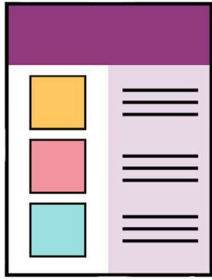


The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** tells the Government how to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



In this Easy Read the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030 will be called the **draft strategy**.





There are 4 parts to the draft strategy which are:

- Part 1: Introduction to the strategy
- Part 2: Background of the strategy
- Part 3: Vision and principles for the strategy
- Part 4: Priority outcome areas and **actions** for the strategy.



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



We will explain what these words mean later in this Easy Read:

- vision
- principles
- priority outcome areas.



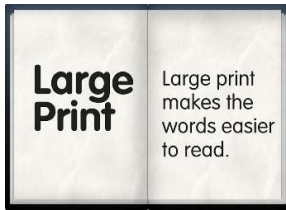
You can read the other parts of the draft strategy in Easy Read on this **webpage**:

**<https://shorturl.at/18ALN>**



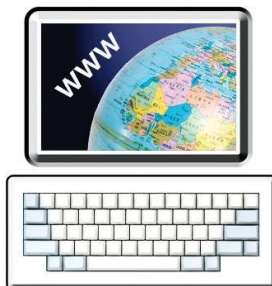
The draft strategy is available in these alternative formats:

- Easy Read
- Braille
- audio
- large print
- New Zealand Sign Language.



The draft strategy is also in New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL on this **webpage**:

**<https://shorturl.at/v7RsK>**



You can find the other alternative formats of the draft strategy on this **webpage**:

**<https://shorturl.at/18ALN>**



To find the alternative formats on that webpage click on the heading:

**Read the draft strategy  
2026 – 2030.**



It is okay to only look at the parts of the draft strategy you are interested in.

This Easy Read is by the **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha**.



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 when we say **Whaikaha** this means the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.

Where it says **we / our** this means Whaikaha.

**Questions**

?

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

Whaikaha would like **feedback** about the draft strategy.



Here **feedback** means telling Whaikaha what you think about the draft strategy.



Whaikaha only wants feedback on:

- Part 3 of the draft strategy
- Part 4 of the draft strategy.



This Easy Read tells you what is in Part 3 of the draft strategy.

## Vision for the draft strategy



The draft strategy has a **vision**.

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



The vision says what the future will be like for disabled people if the draft strategy works.



The vision supports Whaikaha to decide what should be in the strategy.



The vision is not in Easy Read.



The vision is in the yellow box below.

We will explain the hard words.

Whaikaha thinks the vision should be:



New Zealand is an **accessible** and **equitable society** for disabled people and their whānau – a place where disabled people **thrive, lead** and **participate** in all **aspects** of life.



Here **accessible** means disabled people have what they need to easily:

- use things
- do things.





Here **equitable** means Aotearoa New Zealand is a place where we understand that every person:

- is different
- may need different support to be able to do the same things as others.



Here **society** means:

- all the people who live in Aotearoa New Zealand
- the rules we have to make sure we can live together peacefully.



Here **thrive** means disabled people can:

- live good lives
- do the things they want to do.

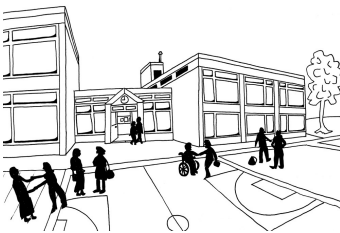


Here **lead** means disabled people can:

- speak up about things that are important to them
- make changes to make life better for all disabled people.



Here **participate** means to be part of or join in with.



Here **aspects** means parts of life like:

- going to school
- having a job
- playing sport
- going to the doctor.



# Principles for the draft strategy



The draft strategy has **principles**.

Here **principles** are ideas / beliefs that tell us:

- what we should do
- how we should do things.



The principles will support Whaikaha to make sure that the draft strategy talks about things that are important to disabled people.



Whaikaha has worked with disability groups to come up with 7 principles that could be in the draft strategy.

# 1. Accessibility

This principle says that **accessibility** means disabled people can be:

- part of everyday life
- included.



Here **accessibility** is about disabled people having what they need to be able to:

- use something
- do something.



Everyone should think about accessibility from the start of making a new:



- environment like a:

- building
- park



- service like a:

- shop
- website.



This makes life better for everyone.



## 2. Choice and control

In the past other people have often made decisions for disabled people.



The choice and control principle says this is not okay.



It says that disabled people:

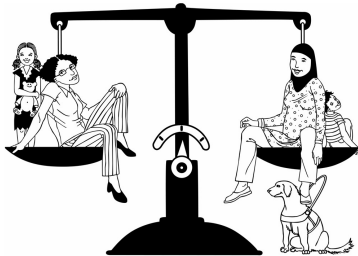
- know what life is like for them
- should have the **right** to make decisions about their own lives just like everyone else does.



**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.

### 3. Equity and cultural inclusion and intersectionality



This principle is about:

- equity
- cultural inclusion
- intersectionality.



**Equity** means an understanding that every person:

- is different
- may sometimes need different support to be able to do the same things as others.





**Cultural inclusion** means thinking about:

- people from different **cultures**
- ideas from different cultures
- things that are important in different cultures.

**Culture** is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.

There are many different cultures in Aotearoa New Zealand like:

- Māori culture
- Pacific culture
- Deaf culture.



Sometimes people are treated unfairly for more than 1 thing that makes them who they are.

**Intersectionality** is a word for how we understand what things are like for those people.

For example if you are a disabled woman things are different for you than for:

- disabled people who are not women
- women who are not disabled.



This principle says that disabled people are part of **diverse**:

- whānau / families
- **communities**
- cultures.



Here **diverse** means that these groups:

- include lots of different people who have different:
  - lives
  - beliefs
- are different from each other.



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

- living in the same place
- being disabled.



Each of the diverse groups disabled people are part of have their own:

- ideas about who the group is
- ideas about what is important
- ways of doing things.



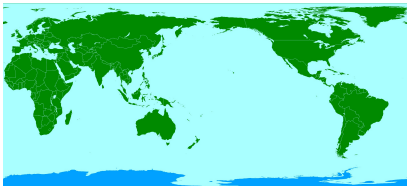
## 4. Human rights



Aotearoa New Zealand has signed up to **international human rights frameworks**.



An **international human rights framework** is an agreement that lots of countries sign about protecting human rights.



This principle says that the draft strategy should think about what the international human rights frameworks say.



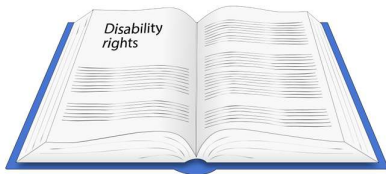
The international human rights frameworks the draft strategy should think about are the:

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**



The **United Nations** is where most of the countries in the world work together.

The United Nations is in charge of the international human rights frameworks.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says what governments should do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everyone else.



The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** says what governments should do to protect the rights of **indigenous people**.



**Indigenous people** are the first people to live in a place.

In Aotearoa New Zealand Māori are the indigenous people.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** says what governments should do to protect the rights of children.



The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** says what rights everyone has.





## 5. Participation and inclusion

This principle says that disabled people have the right to be part of their:

- communities
- cultures.

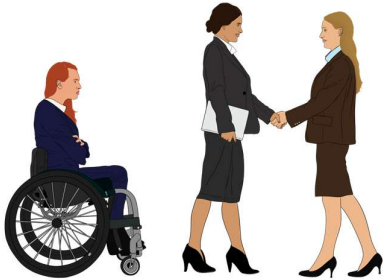


Disabled people have this right in all parts of their lives.

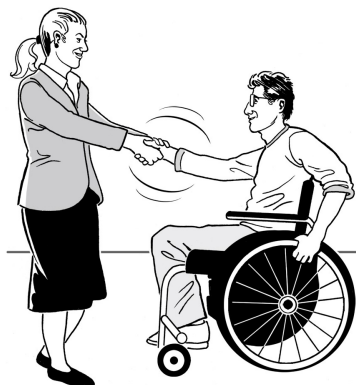
## 6. Respect and dignity

People often:

- say mean things about disabled people
- believe that disabled people cannot do the same things as non-disabled people
- treat disabled people differently.



The **respect and dignity** principle says this is not okay.



Here **respect** means:

- being kind to people
- believing disabled people can make decisions about their own lives.



Here **dignity** means treating people with respect.

This principle says that we should respect everyone.



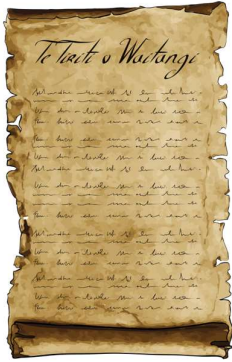
When people believe disabled people cannot do things this makes life hard for disabled people.



These beliefs can get in the way of disabled people living good lives.

These beliefs can make life hard in the same way that things like not having ramps for wheelchairs makes life hard.

## 7. The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi



The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi is an important agreement between:

- Māori

and

- the Crown.

The purpose of the Treaty is to:

- protect Māori:
  - rights
  - taonga
- keep peace and order
- set up government.



In this Easy Read we call the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi **the Treaty** for short.



**The Crown** means the New Zealand government.



**Taonga** means treasures like:

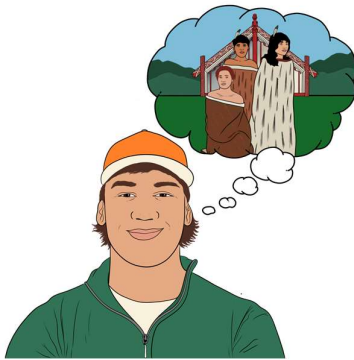
- land / rivers
- te reo Māori / Māori language
- objects like pounamu / greenstone
- traditional food growing places
- spiritual ideas
- ways of life.





**Peace and order** means everyone follows the rules / laws.

This principle says that the Treaty sets up how Māori will work with the Crown.



It says Māori have a special place as tāngata whenua / the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand.



It says the draft strategy should make sure tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people:

- get to work in **partnership** with the Crown
- get to be part of making decisions about their lives.



Here **partnership** means the Crown working together with Māori.



This principle also says the Crown should protect the rights of tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people.

## Cross-cutting themes



The draft strategy has 5 **priority outcome areas**.

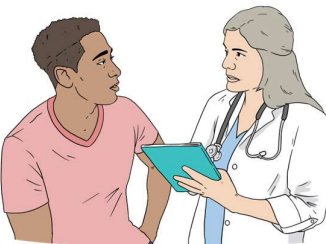


Here **priority outcome areas** are the most important things the draft strategy will work on.



The priority outcome areas are:

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

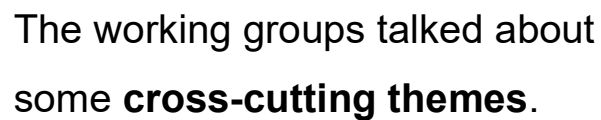




- talked about each of the priority outcome areas
- came up with ideas about what the draft strategy should say for each priority outcome area.



- is a group of people who know lots of things about disability
- meets to talk about important things to do with the draft strategy.





**Cross-cutting themes** are ideas that are important for all the priority outcome areas.



The cross-cutting themes are:

- accessibility
- data
- workforce.



**Data** is information that shows what groups of people:

- are doing
- need.



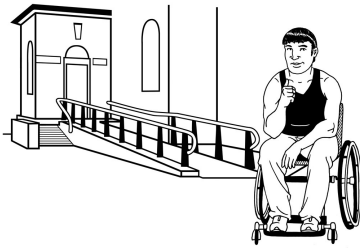
**Workforce** means a group of people working in:

- a place like a hospital
- services like:
  - healthcare
  - teaching.

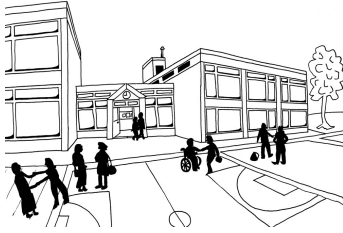
# Accessibility

Accessibility can mean:

- physical access like being able to:
  - go into a building
  - travel somewhere
- being able to use a service like going to:
  - school
  - the doctor
- getting information in a way you can understand.



Access to information also means supporting people to make decisions about their lives.



Disabled students find it hard to access education.



Accessibility is a problem for students in:

- early childhood education like:

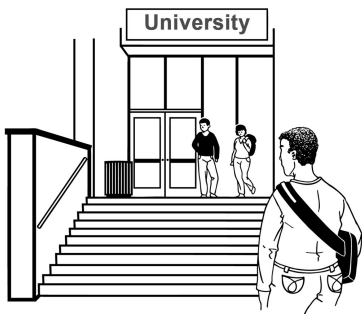
- kindy
- preschool



- school

- tertiary education like:

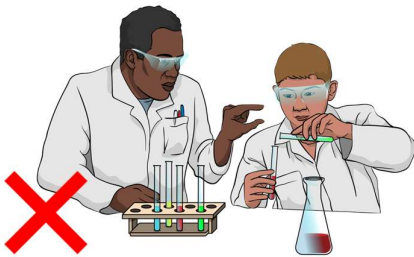
- university
- polytechnic.





Some of the problems students face in education are:

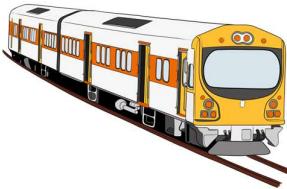
- not being able to move around the buildings
- finding it hard to get tools to support them to communicate
- not having teachers who can teach them in New Zealand Sign Language
- having a teacher who does not know how to support them to learn.





Some of the problems people face in employment are:

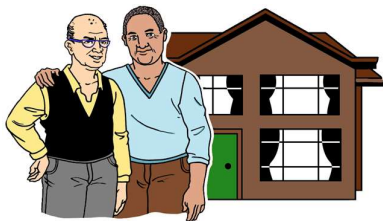
- not being able to find information about jobs on the internet
- finding it hard to get tools to support them to do the job
- not being able to get to their job using public transport like:



- buses
- trains.



There are not enough accessible houses.



This stops disabled people from:

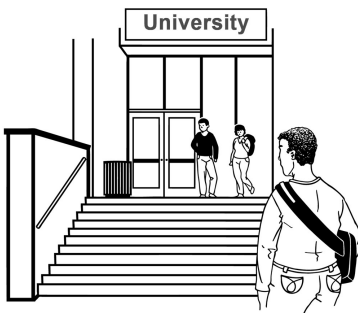
- having a safe place to live
- being part of their communities.



Disabled people need to be able to access:

- **mainstream** government services like:

- going to the doctor
- getting money back if they have paid too much tax
- taking a problem to the **Tenancy Tribunal**
- going to university / polytechnic



- government services that are only for disabled people like:

- the **Total Mobility Scheme**
- support with finding a job
- New Zealand Sign Language interpreters.







**Mainstream** means services that are available to most people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The **Tenancy Tribunal** solves problems people have when they are renting a house.



The **Total Mobility Scheme** pays part of the cost of taxis for disabled people so they can get around.



When disabled people get in trouble with the law they often cannot get:

- accessible information
- the support they need when they need it.



This can mean disabled people are treated unfairly.

## Data



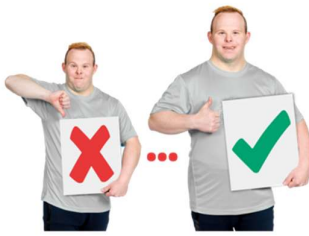
All of the working groups said we need better data about disabled people.



Good data means we can understand if:

- services are working well for disabled people
- disabled people can:
  - access services
  - be part of their communities.





We have better data now than we did when the last New Zealand Disability Strategy was written.



We still do not have enough data to be able to say things about different groups of disabled people like:



- people with the same type of disability like:

- people with learning disability
- blind people
- autistic people



- people of about the same age



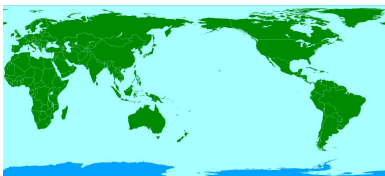
- people of the same **gender**

- people of the same **ethnicity**.



**Gender** is if you are:

- a man or boy
- a woman or girl
- another gender like non-binary.



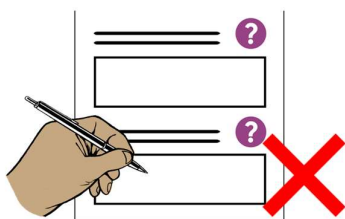
**Ethnicity** means your:

- race like:
  - Māori
  - New Zealand European
- background like whether you:
  - were born in Aotearoa New Zealand
  - moved to Aotearoa New Zealand from another country.



Not having enough data makes it hard to:

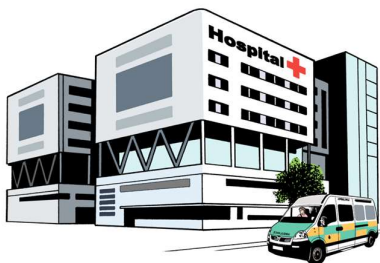
- understand what life is like for different groups of disabled people
- do things to make life better for different groups of disabled people.



There is not enough **administrative data**.

**Administrative data** is information that organisations write down about you as part of doing their jobs like:

- how many people go to emergency departments at hospitals
- information the Ministry of Social Development has about people getting benefits.





Having more administrative data would support us to know if services are working well for disabled people.

We can use administrative data to fill in some of the gaps in the data we already have.



This will tell us more about what life is like for disabled people in each of the priority outcome areas.

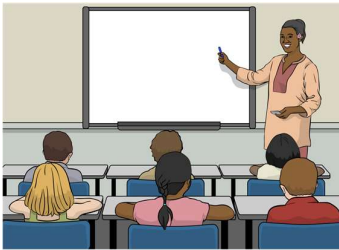


We know that life is harder for disabled people than it is for non-disabled people.



We know that life is harder for some groups of disabled people like:

- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- Pacific disabled people
- people with learning disability.

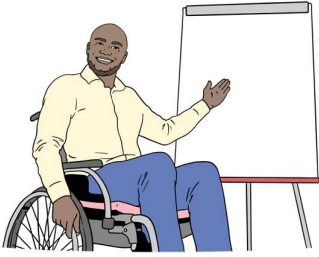


The working groups said we need better data about:

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



## Workforce



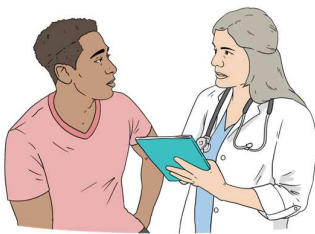
The working groups said people who work in the government need to:

- understand disability better
- do things that show they believe disabled people have the same right to access services as anyone else.

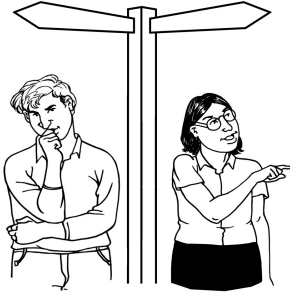


This is important for people working in:

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

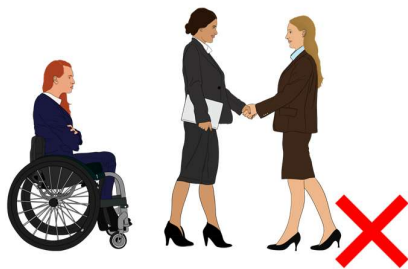


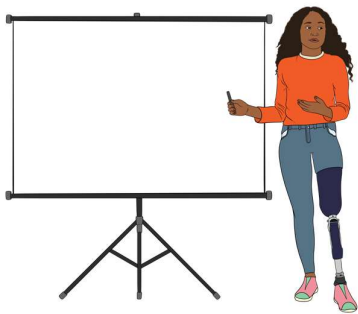




If these people know more about disability they will:

- understand that disabled people can make decisions about their lives
- believe disabled people can live good lives
- want to make it easy for disabled people to access services
- not treat disabled people differently.





The working groups said we need to support more disabled people to work in areas like:

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



This will:

- mean disabled people can be **leaders**
- show everyone that disability is:
  - normal
  - not scary
- make services work better for disabled people.





Here **leaders** are people who:

- make change so that services work better for everyone
- speak up for disabled people.



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.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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