



Draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030

Part 2: Background



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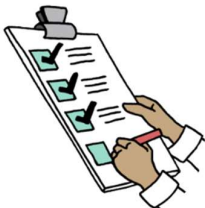


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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is the **background** for the **draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030**.



Here a **background** is information about why something needed to be done.



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**.



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:



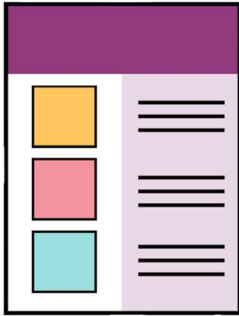
- the Government
- the community which includes:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- businesses.





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

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



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.





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



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

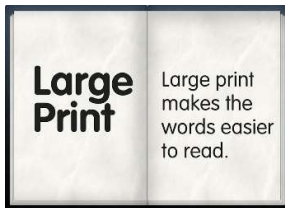
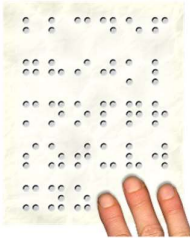
- what we should do
- how we should do things.



Here **priority outcome areas** are the things that are most important to work on in the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030.



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



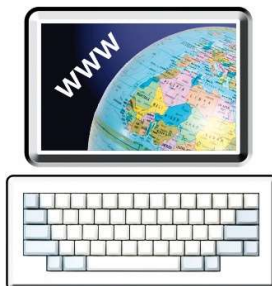
The draft strategy is available in these alternative formats:

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



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

<https://shorturl.at/v7RsK>



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

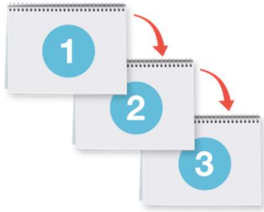
<https://shorturl.at/18ALN>



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

Read the draft strategy 2026 – 2030.

What is the background?



This is the third New Zealand Disability Strategy.



It has been made by Whaikaha working with:



- government agencies
- disabled people
- the disability community.



The new strategy builds on the:

- first 2 strategies
- work done by everyone to make those strategies
- work done to make **data** about disability better.





Data is information that shows what groups of people:

- are doing
- need.



The new strategy says what the Government will do for:

- disabled people
- and
- their whānau / families.

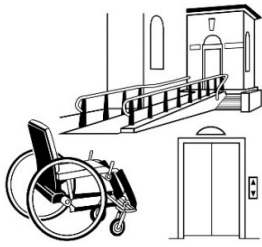


Everyone can be part of making the things in the strategy happen.



All people in Aotearoa New Zealand have a role in making the country:

- **accessible**
- **equitable.**



Here **accessible** means disabled people can use all parts of life in the same ways as non-disabled people.



Here **equitable** means doing things in ways that are fair for everyone.

Disability Support Services

Disability Support Services / DSS are a big part of the lives of over 50 thousand disabled people.



Some of the things in the draft strategy talk about what Disability Support Services / DSS do like:



- housing
- **justice.**



Here **justice** means things to do with New Zealand law like:

- police
- courts
- prisons.



The work of Disability Support Services / DSS is not a main part of the strategy.

There is work being done outside of the strategy to make Disability Support Services / DSS better.

Words used in the draft strategy



There are many ways to:

- say what disability is
- talk about disabled people.



In the draft strategy we say:

- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori

and



- their whānau / families.



We use what the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says about the **social model of disability**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a group of rules that lots of countries have agreed to.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UNCRPD**.

It says what governments should do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



The **social model of disability** says it is the **barriers** in the world we live in that make it harder for disabled people to live good lives.



Barriers are things stopping disabled people being able to:

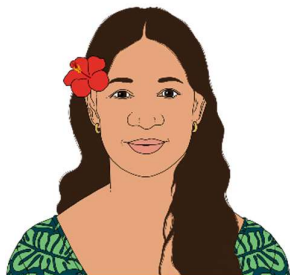
- take part in their communities
- do the things they want to do
- live good lives.



In the draft strategy we say that disabled people have many different parts of their lives like:

- **ethnicity**
- age
- **gender.**





Ethnicity means your:

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



Gender is if you are:

- a man
- a woman
- another gender like nonbinary.



In the draft strategy we say tāngata
whaikaha Māori.



This is because we understand most
Māori disabled people put being
Māori first in their lives.



In the draft strategy we say
whānau / families.



Whānau / families are important for
the support of disabled people.



Whanāu / families include extended
family like:

- grandparents
- aunties and uncles
- cousins
- very close friends.





In the draft strategy we say carers.

Carers are people who take care of disabled people who need support for everyday living.



Carers can be people like:

- friends
- whānau / family
- aiga.



Disabled people are diverse



Here **diverse** means there are lots of different ways to be:

- disabled
- a disabled person.



In **Stats NZ** did the Household Disability Survey in 2023.



Stats NZ is the government agency that finds out information about living in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The survey found that about 1 in every 6 people in New Zealand are disabled.



You can read about the data in an Easy Read called:

Stats NZ data: 1 out of 6 New Zealanders are disabled.

You can find this Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2xpj3fn>



Stats NZ **compared** data about disabled people from:

- 2018
- and
- 2023.



Compare means looking at information from different places to find out if things are:

- different
- the same.



The changes in data show that disabled people:



- are getting a better education / going to school more
- are employed / in jobs more
- have some small changes in having good housing.





The data shows that disabled people still have barriers in:

- employment / jobs
- health
- having a good life
- getting income / money.



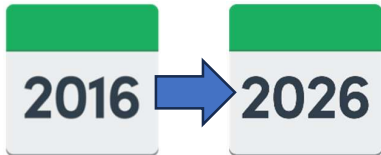
You can read the information from the 2023 Household Disability Survey in an Easy Read called:

Stats NZ data: Disabled people need more care and support.

You can find this Easy Read at this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/42ms9yz7>

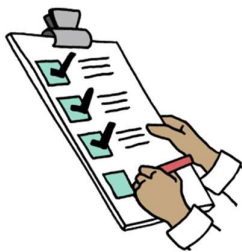
How was the strategy made?



The last New Zealand Disability Strategy went for 10 years.



The new strategy will go for 5 years.



The new strategy going for 5 years means government agencies can work on getting important things done for disabled people.



The work to make this draft strategy happened between:

- December 2024
- and
- July 2025.



The vision and principles of the draft strategy were created through 11 workshops with disability groups.

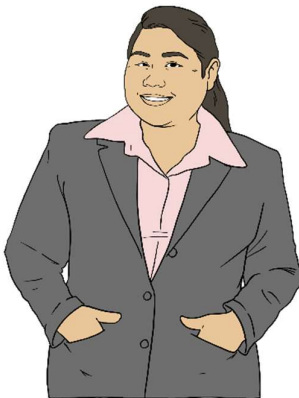


There are 5 priority outcome areas in the draft strategy.

The 5 priority outcome areas were agreed to by **Cabinet**.



Cabinet is a group of Government **ministers** who make a lot of choices about what the Government will do.



A **minister** is:

- an MP / member of parliament who is part of the Government
- in charge of an area of work like disability or health.



The priority outcome areas in the draft strategy are:

- education / school
- employment / jobs
- health
- housing
- justice.



The priority outcome areas were worked on by **working groups**.

Here a **working group**:

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





What the working groups came up with was looked at by:

- the **Ministerial Disability Leadership Group**
- the Minister of Justice.



The **Ministerial Disability Leadership Group** is:

- the Minister for Disability Issues
and
- Government ministers who do work that is important to disabled people.



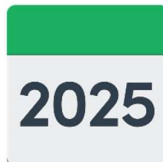


The draft strategy is now out for **public consultation**.

Public consultation means asking everyone what they think about something.



Cabinet will agree on the final version of the strategy when the public consultation is done.

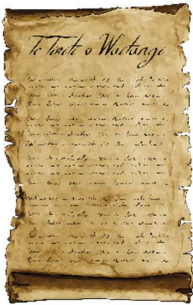


The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030 will be put out in December 2025.

The strategy is part of other important work



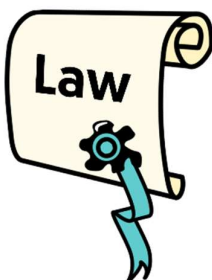
The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030 supports the Government to do the work for disabled people.



This work is set out in:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi**
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- the 9 targets / goals the Government wants to reach to improve public services.





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

- Māori
- and
- the Crown.

The purpose of Te Tiriti is to:

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

Keep **peace and order** means to follow laws / rules.

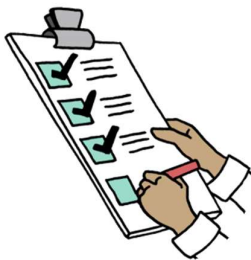
The new strategy includes actions



The old strategy was supported by the Disability Action Plan.



The Disability Action Plan told the Government how to make the old strategy happen.



The new strategy will include actions that will be done in 5 years.



Putting the actions into the new strategy means:

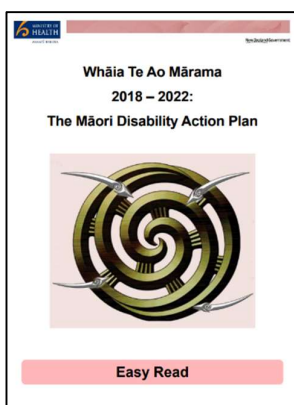
- other action plans do not have to be made
- it will be easier to watch how things are going.





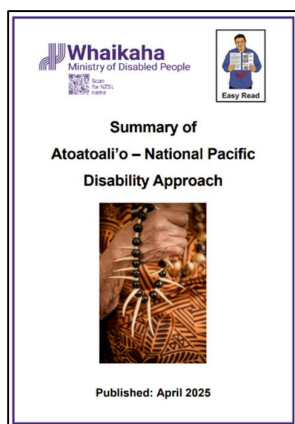
The new strategy builds on work already done like:

- Whāia Te Ao Mārama – Māori Disability Action Plan
- Atoatoali'o – National Pacific Disability Approach.



You can read Whāia Te Ao Mārama – Māori Disability Action Plan in **Easy Read** here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ms932wd3>



You can read Atoatoali'o – National Pacific Disability Approach in **Easy Read** here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3kkcvvvu>



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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