

Visual description: A purple Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People logo. On the left is a QR code and underneath the words ‘scan for the NZSL name’.

# Feedback Form

The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha is consulting on the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030.

We welcome your feedback and comments on the draft strategy. There are four sections. You can complete the whole form or the sections that are of most interest to you. Please complete section 1: About you.

Once you have completed the form please:

* email to [disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz)
* post free of charge to:

New Zealand Disability Strategy Consultation

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People

Reply paid 262204

PO Box 1556

Wellington 6140

# Section 1: About You

1. Are you giving feedback as **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Yourself

Someone else

A group

An organisation

1. What is the name of the group or organisation you are submitting feedback on behalf of? **(please write your response below)**

**Please complete the following questions as though you are the person you are completing the form for.**

1. Do you identify as a disabled person? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the option that doesn’t apply)**:

Yes

No

1. Do you identify as tāngata whaikaha Māori? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the option that doesn’t apply)**:

Yes

No

1. If yes to question 3 or 4, what types of impairment or lived experience apply to you? **(Please select by putting X next to all that apply, or listing all that apply)**

Physical

Hearing or auditory

Visual

Speech

Learning, cognitive or neurological

Other:

1. Are you a carer or family member of a disabled person? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the option that doesn’t apply)**:

Yes

No

1. What is your age group? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Under 15 years

15–29 years

30–44 years

45–64 years

65–74 years

75 years or over

1. What is your gender? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Male

Female

Another gender

Prefer not to answer

1. Which ethnic group(s) do you belong to? **(Please select by putting X next to all that apply, or listing all that apply)**

New Zealand European

Māori

Samoan

Cook Islands Māori

Tongan

Niuean

Chinese

Indian

Other:

# Section 2: Vision and Principles

The strategy will have a vision. This is a statement describing the future that disabled people want to achieve through the strategy.

The **proposed vision** is:

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.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the following statements about the **vision**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* The **vision** is clear and easy to understand.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* The **vision** aligns with the values and aspirations of disabled people.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* I feel confident the **vision** will lead to meaningful change.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions about the **vision**? **(please write your response below)**

**Principles** are the key values, ideas and commitments that underpin this strategy. The principles will help make sure the strategy reflects the things that are important to disabled people.

Seven **principles** have been proposed for the strategy. These are summarised below.

## Accessibility

Fundamental to participation and inclusion. Accessible environments and services benefit everyone, not just disabled people.

## Choice and control

Recognises that disabled people are experts in their own lives, and have the same right to self-determination as everyone else.

## Equity, cultural inclusion and intersectionality

Acknowledges that disabled individuals have their own unique identities, and belong to diverse whānau, communities, and cultures.

## Human rights

Anchor the strategy to international human rights frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## Participation and inclusion

Recognises disabled people’s right to be active members of their communities and cultures in all aspects of life.

## Respect and dignity

Emphasises that everyone deserves to be treated with respect, and acknowledges that societal attitudes can be a significant barrier for disabled people.

## The Treaty of Waitangi | Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Establishes the relationship between Māori and the Crown, recognising the unique position of Māori as tāngata whenua, and ensuring partnership, participation and protection for tāngata whaikaha Māori.

1. On a scale from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (very important) how important is each of the following **principles**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* Accessibility

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* Choice and control

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* Equity, cultural inclusion, and intersectionality

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* Human rights

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* Participation and inclusion

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* Respect and dignity

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

* The Treaty of Waitangi | Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Not at all important

Not important

Neutral

Important

Very important

1. Is there anything you would like to add or remove from the list of **principles**? **(please write your response below)**
2. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed **principles**? **(please write your response below)**

# Section 3: Priority Outcome Areas

The strategy has five priority outcome areas: education, employment, health, housing and justice.

Each area has a goal, a description of what success means, a case for change, and a set of proposed actions to which the Government will commit to achieve success for disabled people.

You can provide feedback on all priority outcome areas or those of most interest to you.

## Education

The **goal** for education is:

Every learner is supported to attend, participate and progress in education. There is a high expectation that all learners – including disabled learners – will achieve their potential in the education setting of their choice.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the **goal** for education? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Summary of **what success in education means:**

Educators plan for diverse learners to succeed. The education system has high expectations for all disabled learners, focusing on their strengths and aspirations. Learning support is responsive, timely and effective, easy to navigate, and delivered by a skilled workforce. Early intervention happens at the right time and is effective.

Kaupapa Māori education settings have access to the right resources delivered by a capable workforce. Data is gathered to support and understand the progress of learners. Tertiary education providers are supported to implement disability action plans, with progress monitored.

1. On a scale (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the description of **what success in education means**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the **goal** or the **description of what success means**? **(please write your response below)**

In the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy there are **9 proposed education actions**.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with each action? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* **Action 1:** Invest $266 million to expand early intervention services to support the identification of learning support needs early in a child’s life and reduce wait times for assessments and services.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 2:** Explore new options for targeted and specialised support and provisions to reduce wait times using private providers and non-government organisations (NGOs).

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 3:** Make improvements to the learning support system so it is easier to navigate for educators, families and learners through: funding all schools with Year 1-8 students for a Learning Support Coordinator; and by reducing the complexity and accessibility of the application process.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 4:** Invest funding in additional learning support classrooms to provide choice for parents.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 5:** Work with the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha to develop improvements in teacher training and guidance that support teachers to meet the needs of disabled students.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 6:** Work with the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha to explore opportunities to improve accountability for schools though reporting on learning and achievement outcomes for disabled learners.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 7:** Support kaupapa Māori settings, within the existing Education budget, to access the resources, knowledge and capability to deliver high quality kaupapa Māori educational programmes that meet the needs of disabled ākonga (students) in a kaupapa Māori setting.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 8:** Work with the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha to explore opportunities to identify disabled learners in education data collections.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 9**: Continue implementation of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) mechanism for reviewing provider progress in implementation of disability action plans (which will be integrated into Investment Plans from 2027). The TEC will consult with disabled student representative groups, including the National Disabled Students’ Association, on how the mechanism will be implemented.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed **actions**? **(please write your response below)**

## Employment

The **goal** for employment is:

Disabled people will have meaningful career opportunities, equal to non-disabled people, and be valued the same way. Disability-confident employers will recognise disabled people’s talents and will provide accessible and inclusive workplaces throughout the employment lifecycle.

20. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the **goal**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Summary of **what success in employment means**:

Disabled people have meaningful career, employment and self-employment opportunities, equal to non-disabled people. They have the right resources and support, and confidence their employer can help them to thrive at work, whether they are urban or rural, in a workplace or working remotely. Better work outcomes give disabled people more economic security, dignity, self-determination and choice.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the description of **what success in employment means**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

22. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the **goal** or the **description of what success means**? **(please write your response below)**

In the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy there are **6** **proposed employment actions** to reach the goal.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with each **action**?

* **Action 1:** Work to centralise, and make accessible, information and guidance for disabled people to identify and pursue job pathways matched to their skills and interests.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 2:** Review specialist employment supports to improve employment outcomes, in consultation with disabled people.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 3:** Work with disabled people, employers and employer networks to develop mentorship programmes connecting disabled people with successful disabled professionals or employers to provide guidance and support in navigating their careers.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 4:** Partner with disabled people and support providers to create a centralised, accessible repository of practical information and resources for employers and employer networks so they can support disabled people throughout the employment lifecycle and to share knowledge and success stories.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 5:** Partner with disabled people, employers and employer networks to improve accessibility and inclusion in employment lifecycles for disabled people. This includes promoting and enabling the design of jobs and workplaces to support:
  + inclusion of disabled people
  + flexible working arrangements and reasonable accommodations
  + assessing the accessibility of workplaces.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 6:** Implement a targeted, ongoing awareness campaign publicising guidance and resources for employers and employees on accessibility and inclusion, relevant data and reports, and highlighting the positive impact disabled people have had on workplaces. This action will support employment action 4.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed **actions**? **(please write your response below)**

## Health

The **goal** for health is:

Disabled people will achieve the highest possible standard of health and wellbeing. They will decide what this means for themselves and their whānau.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the **goal**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Summary of **what success in health means**:

The health system enhances quality of life for disabled people. Self-determination means disabled people can make informed choices and have their decisions respected. Tāngata whaikaha Māori are understood as part of a collective and can involve whānau in their health in the ways they want.

Accessibility, equity and inclusion are embedded throughout the health system, supported by a skilled and responsive health workforce. This includes disabled people at every level. Better data is collected and used for system improvement.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the description of **what success in heath means**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the **goal** or the **description of what success means**? **(please write your response below)**

In the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy there are **5 proposed health actions** to reach the goal.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with each action? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* **Action 1:** Review and improve policies and practices, so the health journey is equitable, accessible and inclusive. This review will include all interactions with the health system, covering communication, information, technology, decision-making, service design and delivery, and the built environment.

Self-determination should be a key consideration of the review. This includes making tools for self-determination and supported decision-making standard practice in health care – especially for people with different communication, cognitive or psychosocial needs.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 2:** Build health workforce capability to deliver services that are inclusive, culturally safe, and easy to navigate.

Building workforce capability includes increasing the proportion of disabled people across the health and disability workforce, through recruitment and workplace policies, inclusive and accessible work environments, and career development. It also includes embedding disability responsiveness and lived experience into health workforce training and ongoing professional development.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 3:** Create opportunities to build disabled people’s skills and knowledge to take up health system roles.

Government agencies will create opportunities to build the capability and capacity of disabled people to carry out health system roles. These roles will include health system design, consultation, monitoring, leadership, advisory and governance roles.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 4:** Identify disabled people in national health data. Identifying disabled people in data will make them more visible in the health system. It will enable better monitoring of population health outcomes and patient experiences.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 5**: Implement systems to enable disabled people to record their accessibility needs against their National Health Index.

Recording people’s accessibility needs will mean these needs can easily be shared with health providers. Disabled people will not have to repeat their accessibility needs each time they engage with health services, and health providers will be better placed to plan and meet those needs.

Work to progress this action should be guided by disability community expectations and data sovereignty.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed **actions**? **(please write your response below)**

## Housing

The **goal** for housing is:

Disabled people and their whānau will have affordable, healthy, secure and accessible homes that meet their needs.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the **goal**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

A summary of **what success in housing means** is:

Disabled people have a range of suitable housing options in the community, so they can choose where they live. They enjoy secure tenure in housing, can move if they want, and do not experience delays accessing housing when leaving hospital inpatient care.

The housing sector meets accessibility needs, and the supply of accessible housing meets demand, with monitoring in place. Urban design and planning create accessible neighbourhoods. Suitable housing improves disabled people’s outcomes and protects against harm, neglect, violence and abuse.

1. On a scale (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the description of what success in housing means? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply):**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the **goal** or the **description of success**? **(please write your response below)**

In the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy there are **6 proposed housing actions** to reach the goal.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with each action? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* **Action 1**: Develop, consult on, and make publicly available, clear definitions of accessible homes, describing the 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).

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 2**: Improve data matching between disabled people and social housing properties with accessible features that meet their needs and ensure disabled people and their whānau are prioritised to accessible properties. Data matching will both identify disabled people’s housing needs and social housing that meets those needs.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 3**: Identify possible barriers to increasing supply of accessible houses in the private market and investigate opportunities to remove those barriers. Understanding barriers to the supply of accessible housing will help target potential interventions to improve supply.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 4**: Review and explore ways to improve the housing modification system. Addressing inefficiencies in the housing modification system could reduce current problems: inaccessibility of homes, increased costs, and health and safety issues for disabled people, whānau and carers.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 5**: Gather annual data on the housing-related needs of disabled people and compare this to what is being built in each region, to influence the housing market to build and make available more accessible housing.

Data will increase developers’ awareness of the housing-related needs of disabled people and raise the profile of the demand for accessible homes.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 6**: 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.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed actions? **(please write your response below)**

## Justice

The **goal** for justice is:

Disabled people’s human rights and freedoms will be protected, and their disability rights will be realised. Disabled people will be treated fairly and equitably by the justice system. Justice system policies and practices will embed accessibility, inclusion and lived experience.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the goal? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

A summary of **what success in justice means** is:

Disabled children, young people and adults in care are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and violence. Disabled children and young people are supported to avoid the care and protection or youth justice systems.

Disabled people who interact with the youth justice or criminal justice systems have their rights and accessibility needs considered and get support to transition out. Those charged with an offence but unable to stand trial are treated consistently with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. Justice sector workforces have the skills to uphold disabled people’s rights.

Disabled parents in Family Court will have equitable access to family justice services.

1. On a scale (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with the description of **what success in justice means**? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the **goal** or the **description of success**? **(please write your response below)**

In the draft New Zealand Disability Strategy there are **7 proposed justice actions** to reach the goal.

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do you agree with each action? (**Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* **Action 1**: Develop and 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.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 2**: Establish a cross-agency project to identify and address gaps in data and evidence about disabled people’s experiences of crime, including for disabled people in residential and secure facilities, and experiences of cyberbullying.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 3**: Develop a social investment plan for early intervention and support, to reduce the number of disabled children and young people entering the youth justice system.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 4**: The Law Commission has been asked to undertake a review of the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003 (CPMIP). This review is expected to consider the CPMIP’s relationship to other relevant legislation, such as the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 and Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 5:** Review, as work programmes allow, the effectiveness of current protections for disabled people in family law, including adoption, guardianship and personal property rights, to identify gaps where strengthened provisions or support are needed. Any review should also consider supported decision-making and use of plain language in key justice sector legislation and processes. Consideration should be given to reviewing human rights legislation, as work programmes allow.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 6:** Integrate lessons from disability-specific safeguarding approaches into the development of the future state for multi-agency responses to family violence, to strengthen outcomes for disabled people experiencing violence and abuse. This includes supporting workforce capability to ensure a coordinated, safe and disabled-person centred response.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

* **Action 7**: Develop and implement a plan to make the justice sector workforce more disability competent, including in the use of mana and trauma informed practices. This plan would include increasing recruitment and retention of disabled people and should consider mandatory professional standards.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on the proposed **actions**? **(please write your response below)**

# Section 4: Overall Comments

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) how much do agree with the following statement? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the options that don’t apply)**:

* The strategy will lead to meaningful change.

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

1. Is there anything else you would like to see in the strategy? **(Please select by putting X next to the option that applies, or removing the option that doesn’t apply):**

Yes

No

1. If yes, please write your response below:
2. Any other comments or suggestions? **(please write your response below)**