



New Zealand Disability Strategy

2026 to 2030:

Goal and actions for education



Published: December 2025

What you will find in here

Page number:



About this Easy Read2



Education goal7



What success in education
means9



Education actions.....16

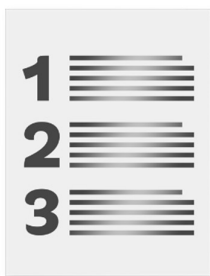
About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of the **goal** and **actions** for **education** from the **New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030**.



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



A **summary** is:

- shorter than the full document
- tells you the main ideas.

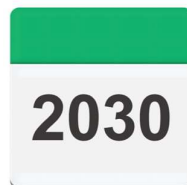
In this Easy Read where it says **we / our** this means the New Zealand Government.



Here a **goal** means how we want things to be.



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



The New Zealand Disability Strategy
2026 to 2030:

- is the third disability strategy made for New Zealand
- will go for 5 years.

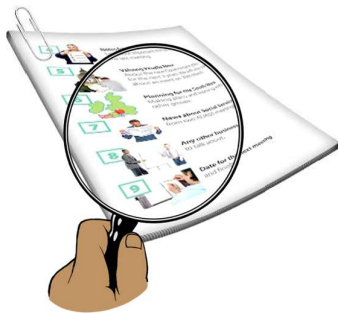


In this Easy Read the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030 will be called the **strategy**.



The strategy has:

- a **vision** and **principles** that will show the Government what to do
- 5 **priority outcome areas**:
 - education
 - employment
 - health
 - housing
 - justice
- a monitoring approach which is the ways the Government will check how well the strategy is being done.



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.

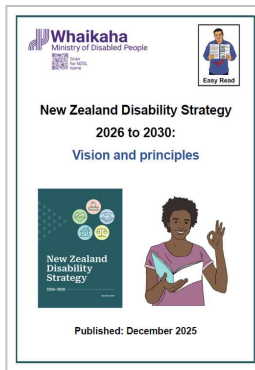


Here **priority outcome areas** are the things that are most important to work on in the strategy.



You can read the full strategy at our **website**:

<https://shorturl.at/CCvma>



There are 6 Easy Read summaries of the strategy which are:

- Vision, principles, and other key information
- Goal and actions for education
- Goal and actions for employment
- Goal and actions for health
- Goal and actions for housing
- Goal and actions for justice.

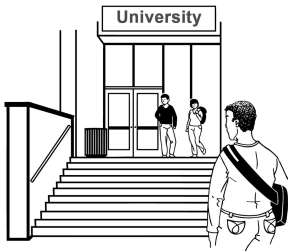


You can find all the Easy Read summaries of the strategy at this **website**:

<https://shorturl.at/VDFhw>



Education goal



Education means places like:

- early childhood education such as:
 - kindergartens / kindy
 - playcentres
- primary / intermediate schools
- high schools / colleges
- tertiary education like:
 - universities
 - polytechnics
 - wānanga.



The goal for education is that every **learner** can:

- go to school / places of learning
- take part at school / places of learning
- progress / develop as a person through their education
- achieve good things at the place they choose to get their education from.

Learners are people who go to:

- school
- other places of learning.

Learners are also called ākonga / students.

What success in education means

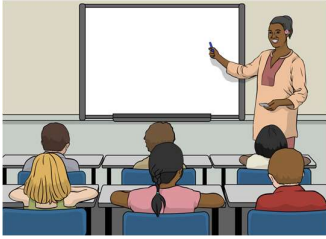


1. Success in education means **educators** know how to plan for the needs of all learners.



Educators means:

- teachers
- people who support teachers in the classroom
- principals / heads of schools.



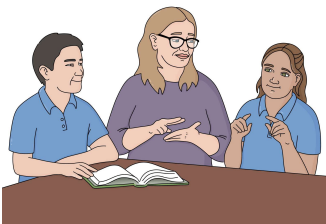
2. Success in education means the education system expects all disabled learners to:

- attend school
- do their schoolwork
- do a good job.



3. Success in education means **learning support** is given to learners:

- quickly
- in the best way possible
- with skilled:
 - **specialist staff**
 - support staff.





Learning support means a disabled learner gets the things they need to do well at school like:

- a support person
- access to buildings
- learning aids like:
 - equipment
 - quiet space.

Here **specialist staff** means learning support people for disabled learners.



4. Success in education means working out if a learner needs **early intervention services** as early as possible.



Early intervention services:

- looks at how well young children are learning
- works out what learning support they might need.



5. Success in education means kaupapa Māori / Māori schools have educators who know:

- Māori **culture**
- how to support tangata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori learners.





Culture is a way of:

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



6. Success in education means learners with learning support needs are:

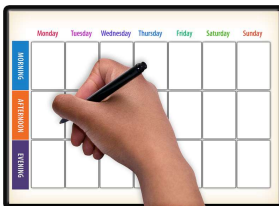
- found early
- supported as soon as possible.





7. Success in education means information is collected to find out:

- how well disabled learners are doing
- who needs:
 - services / support
 - something more / different
- how to work with whānau / families.



8. Success in education means disabled learners are supported for their needs at their school by:

- understanding / listening to disabled learners
- asking disabled learners what they think.





9. Success in education means the change from early childhood education to school:

- is planned early
- is monitored / watched
- includes:
 - the learner
 - their whānau / family.

10. Success in education means tertiary education providers like universities are supported to do their disability action plans.

Education actions

1. Put money into early intervention services.



Over 2 hundred and 60 million dollars will be put into early intervention services.



This will mean families do not have to wait a long time to get support.



2. Make new ways to do support.

Think about who can decide what support learners might need for:

- **targeted support**
- **specialist support.**





Here **targeted support** is learning support for:

- 1 person
- a small group of people with the same needs.



Wait times for this support will also be made shorter.



This will be done using:

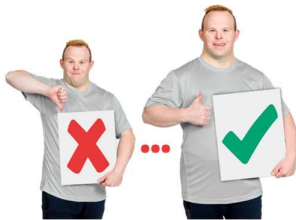
- private providers like businesses
- community organisations.



3. Make improvements to the learning support system.



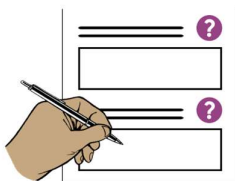
Improvements will be made by funding a **learning support coordinator** for all schools with students from Years 1 to 8.



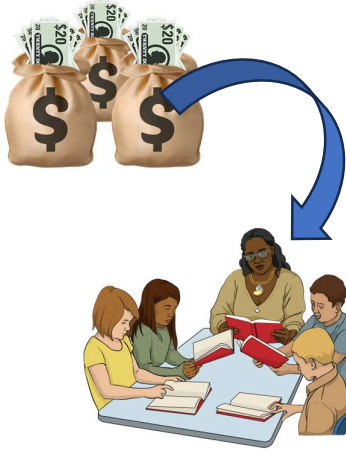
Improvements means making things better.



A **learning support coordinator** is someone who assists with organising learning support at a school.



Improvements will also be made by making it easier to apply for learning support.



4. Put money into more specialist support classrooms.

This will give more choice for some parents / whānau to find the right support their child needs.



5. Work with Whaikaha to improve teacher training.

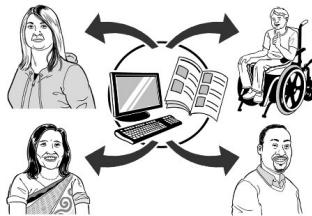


Work with Whaikaha to create ways to making teacher training better.



This will give teachers better ways to support disabled learners.

6. Work with Whaikaha to improve accountability of schools.



Accountability means doing things in a responsible way including:

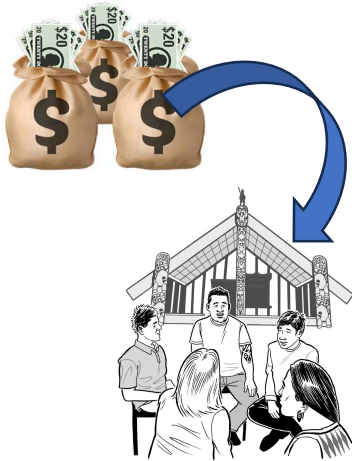
- doing what was promised
- fixing problems as soon as possible
- making sure people have all the information they need.



This will be done through reports on how well disabled learners are:

- learning
- achieving / doing in their schoolwork.





7. Support kaupapa Māori / Māori schools to give very good education.

This will be done through using money already there for education.

This will make sure:

- disabled Māori learners
- educators

get what they need.



8. Work with Whaikaha on new ways to find disabled learners in education data.



Finding disabled learners means we can understand:

- how well they are doing
- what they need.



9. Keep checking how disability action plans are being put in place in tertiary education.

The Tertiary Education Commission / TEC has a way to watch how disability action plans are put in place at schools.



The Tertiary Education Commission / TEC will work with disabled student groups on how to:

- check disability action plans are put in place in tertiary education
- include what disabled students think about the plans.





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.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.



Make it Easy uses images from:



- Photosymbols
- Change Images
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- SGC Image Works
- T Wood
- Studio Rebeko
- Inga Kramer.

