

New Zealand Disability Strategy

2026 to 2030:

Goal and actions for justice



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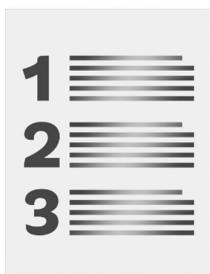
About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of the **goal** and **actions** for **justice** 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.

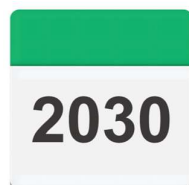
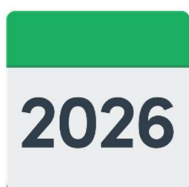
In this Easy Read where it says **we / our** this means the New Zealand Government.



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.

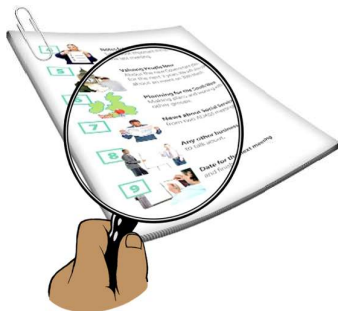


In this Easy Read the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030 will be called the **strategy**.



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.

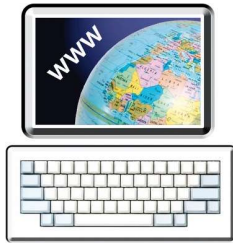


Here **principles** are ideas / beliefs that tell us:

- 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>



Before you start



This document talks about abuse / violence.

This information may upset some people when they are reading it.



This information is not meant to scare anyone.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whānau / family
- friends.



If you do not feel safe you should call the police on **111**.

Justice goal



Justice is:

- to do with the **law**
- about being treated fairly
- when your **human rights** are protected.

A **law** is a rule made by the Government that everybody must follow.

Disabled people will have their:

- **human rights** protected
- **freedoms** protected.



Human rights are things that the law says every person should:

- have
- be able to do.



Rights are things like being treated fairly by the justice system.



Here **freedoms** means being able to live your life how you want to.



Disability rights will be **realised**.

Here **realised** means to:

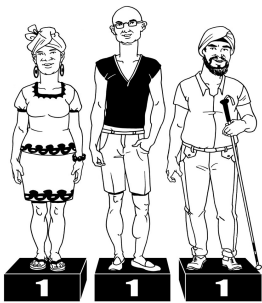
- understand something
- and
- make it happen.





The justice system will treat disabled people in ways that are:

- fair
- **equitable.**



Equitable means doing things to make sure everyone gets treated in a good way.



Sometimes treating a person equitably means doing things for a disabled person that a non-disabled person might not need.

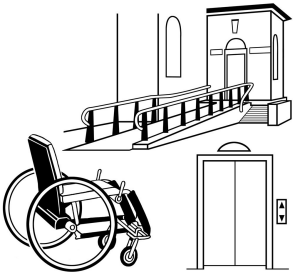


Disabled people will be supported to take part in the justice system in a good way.



How the justice system works will:

- be **accessible**
- include everyone
- use the lived experience of disabled people.



Here **accessible** means things like having:

- buildings disabled people can access
- important documents made in ways that mean disabled people can read them
- support people like at court.

What success in justice means



1. Success in justice for disabled people is when all disabled people are **safeguarded** from:

- **abuse**
- **neglect**
- **violence.**



Here **safeguard** means to:

- protect the rights of a person so they can make decisions about their safety
- look for all the ways a person might be unsafe
- do something when a person is unsafe to stop bad things from happening to them.





Abuse is when a person treats another person badly / hurts them.

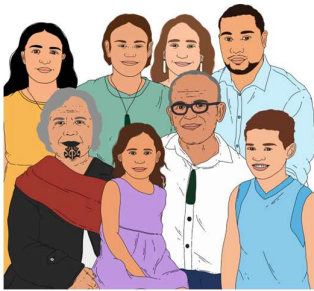


Neglect is when someone is not given the:

- care they need
- things they need like food.



Violence is when someone hurts another person like hitting / kicking them.



2. Success in justice for disabled people is when there is early support for disabled:

- children and young people
- their whānau / families.



This early support will stop them from being in:

- **care and protection** places
- the justice system.



Care and protection places are where young people aged from 12 years to 16 years live when:

- they need extra care / support
- or
- it is not safe for them to be at home right now.



3. Success in justice for disabled people is making sure disabled people have their:

- rights:
 - treated with respect
 - upheld / taken care of
- accessibility needs:
 - treated with respect
 - upheld / taken care of.

This is for:

- disabled children / young people in the youth justice system
- disabled adults in the criminal justice system.

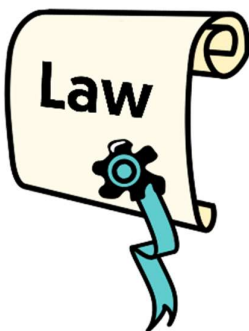


4. Success in justice is when disabled people charged with an offence who are unable to **stand trial** are treated fairly under the **New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990**.



Stand trial means:

- going to court to answer questions about laws a person may have broken
- the court deciding if a person needs to be punished for breaking the law.



The **New Zealand Bill of Rights Act** is a law that protects the rights of everyone in New Zealand.



Some people may not be able to stand trial because they:

- have a disability
- are not able to understand what is happening in court
- are not able to make legal decisions for themselves.





5. Success in justice for disabled people means having the skills to take care of the rights of disabled people.



This includes people working in the justice system knowing about:

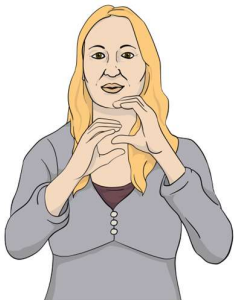
- **disability competence**
- **Deaf cultural competence**
- **supported decision making.**



Disability competence is knowing how to:

- work with disabled people
- support disabled people
- include disabled people.





Deaf cultural competence is knowing about Deaf:

- culture / being part of the Deaf community
- language like making sure a Deaf person has an **interpreter**
- experiences.

Here an **interpreter** is a person who:

- signs to a Deaf person what another person is saying
- tells another person what a Deaf person is saying in sign language.



Supported decision making

means a disabled person decides things with the support of someone like a:

- whānau / family member
- caregiver / support person
- lawyer.



6. Success in justice for disabled people is when disabled parents using **family justice services**:



- can use the services just as well as non-disabled parents
- get the support they need.



Family justice services are about things like:

- where a child will live when their parents separate / divorce
- **adoption.**



Here **adoption** is when people become the parents of a child they have not given birth to.

Justice actions



1. Put in place a framework / rules to keep disabled people safe while they are in:

- detention
- **residential facilities** funded by Disability Support Services.



Detention means living in a place you cannot leave like prison.



A **residential facility** is a place where a disabled person lives when:

- they require ongoing support and
- do not have whānau / family able to provide that support



The framework / rules will include rules on how to deal with disabled people in abusive situations like:



- prevention / making sure it does not happen
- reporting / telling people about it



- responding / doing something about it
- taking them away from it in a safe way.



2. Do a project to find missing information about how disabled people experience crime.

This project will include disabled people in:

- residential facilities
- secure facilities like prison.



The project will also look at **cyberbullying**.



Cyberbullying is when someone is bullying you online like:

- saying nasty things about you / to you
- telling lies about you.



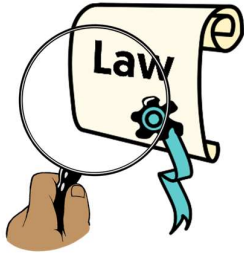
3. Make a plan to have fewer disabled children / young people coming into the youth justice system.

The plan will be about finding ways to:



- take action when disabled children / young people are at risk from being part of crime
- support disabled children / young people in their communities.





4. Review of the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003 by the Law Commission.

The **Law Commission** is an organisation that:

- looks at how well laws work
- tells the Government how to make the laws better.

The **Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003** is a law that has the rules about how to treat disabled people who have broken the law when they go to court.



The review will find out if this law works with other laws like the:

- **Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003**
- **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.**



The **Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation Act) 2003** is a law that has the rules about the care of disabled people who have:

- been found guilty of breaking the law
- broken the law but cannot go to trial / court.





The **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992** is a law that has the rules for when someone needs **compulsory** mental health:

- assessment / testing
- treatment.

Compulsory means something that must be done.

5. Review how disabled people are protected in family law.



Family law includes:

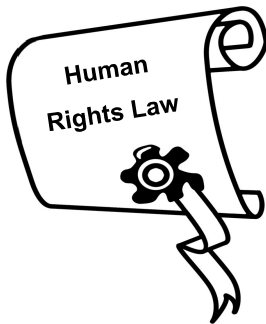
- adoption
- guardianship which is when an adult is put in charge of the care of a person
- rights around the things you own.



The review will look at:

- where better supports are needed
- supported decision making
- using **plain language** in important justice system:
 - laws
 - processes / the way things are done.





Plain language is way of writing that makes it easier to understand something using:

- easier words that everyone knows
- shorter sentences.

We will review the human rights laws if we have enough time.



6. Use safeguarding for disabled people in how government agencies respond to family violence.



Family violence means when someone in your family or where you live:

- hurts your body – like hitting or pushing you
- hurts your feelings – like shouting or saying mean things to you
- scares you or makes you feel trapped / unable to leave
- controls you – like someone not letting you have your money or the things you need.



Family violence can happen between:

- partners / married people
- parents and children
- other family members.



This action includes training people to make sure disabled people who are experiencing violence get looked after in a way that is:

- safe
- done in a good way with different people
- all about what they need.





7. Come up with a plan to train people in the justice system to be more disability competent.

Training people to be more disability competent includes:

- Deaf cultural competence
- doing things in ways that are:
 - **mana informed**
 - **trauma informed.**



Having **mana**:

- means someone has a strong sense of confidence / knowledge about them
- might affect how other people see / think about them.





Doing something in a **mana informed** way means:

- respecting everyone
- understanding what is important to someone.



Trauma is what happens when you have been through something very bad.

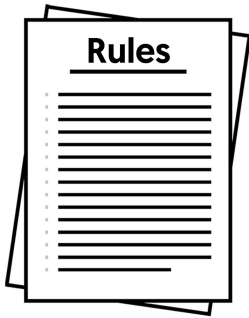


Doing something in a **trauma informed** way means understanding the bad things a person has been through.



The training plan will:

- make sure there are more disabled people working in the justice system
- look at the standards / rules people must follow when working in the justice system.





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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