

New Zealand Disability Strategy

2026 to 2030:

Vision and principles

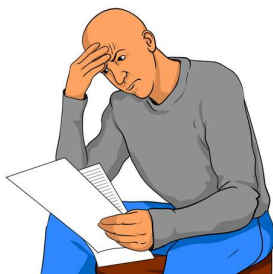


Published: December 2025

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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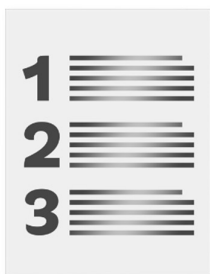
About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of the **vision and principles** of 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 **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.



The New Zealand Disability Strategy
2026 to 2030:

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

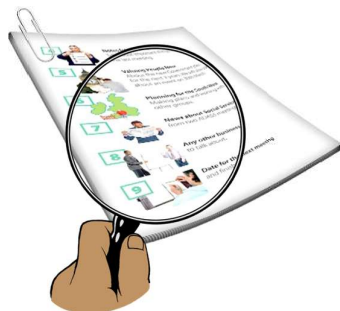


In this Easy Read the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030 will be called the **strategy**.



The strategy has:

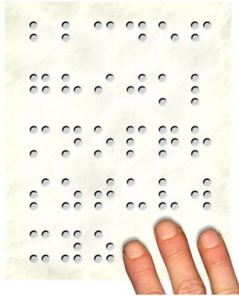
- a **vision** and **principles** that will show the Government what to do
- 5 **priority outcome areas**:
 - education
 - employment
 - health
 - housing
 - justice
- a monitoring approach which is the ways the Government will check how well the strategy is being done.





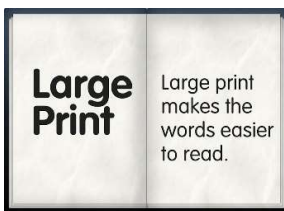
You can read the full strategy at our **website:**

<https://shorturl.at/CCvma>



The strategy is available in these alternate formats:

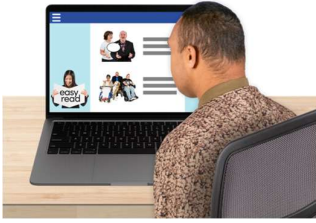
- Easy Read
- Braille
- audio
- large print
- New Zealand Sign Language.



You can find the strategy in New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL on this **webpage:**



<https://shorturl.at/huNHK>



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

<https://shorturl.at/VDFhw>

Vision for the strategy



The 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 strategy works.



The vision supported us to decide what should be in the strategy.



The vision is in the yellow box below.

We will explain the hard words.



The vision is:

New Zealand is an **equitable** and **accessible** place for all disabled people and their whānau – where disabled people **thrive, contribute,** and **choose the lives they want to lead.**



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

- use things
- do things.



Here **thrive** means disabled people can:

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



Here **contribute** means disabled people:

- can be part of their **communities**
- speak up about things that are important to them
- are listened to
- can make changes to make life better for all disabled people.



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

- living in the same place
- being disabled
- having the same hobbies / interests.



Here **choose the lives they want to lead** means disabled people can make choices about what happens in their lives.

Foundations of the strategy



The strategy has 3 **foundations**.

Here **foundations** are things that the strategy is based on.



Disabled people told us these foundations are important.



The foundations are:

- the **Enabling Good Lives approach**
- the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.**



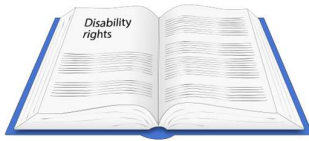


The **Enabling Good Lives approach** is a different way of thinking about disability support.

It was made together by lots of different disability groups.

The Enabling Good Lives approach is about disabled people having:

- choice and control in their lives
- the support they:
 - need
 - want
- a good life.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an agreement lots of countries have made.



It is also called the **UNCRPD**.

It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same **rights** as everyone else.

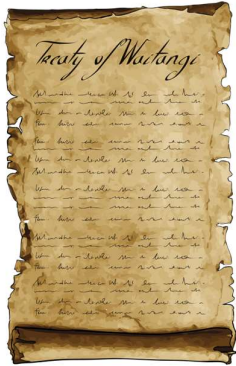


Rights are things that everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.



An example of a right is the right to get married.



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

- Māori

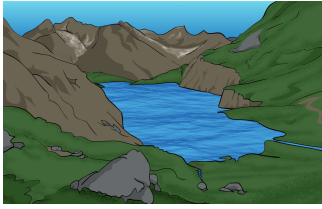
and

- **the Crown.**

The purpose of the Treaty is to:

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

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.

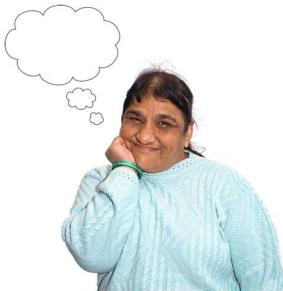
Principles for the strategy



The strategy has 5 **principles**.

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

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



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

1. Accessibility

This principle says **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.

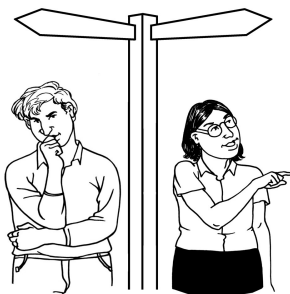


This makes life better for everyone.

2. Self-determination



Here **self-determination** means that everyone can make decisions about their life.



This principle says disabled people have the same right as other people to make decisions about their lives.



Disabled people should be able to use **supported decision-making** if they want to.



Supported decision-making is when a disabled person is supported to make decisions about their own life.



This principle says the idea of **nothing about us without us** is important.



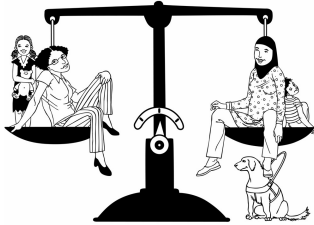
Nothing about us without us

means disabled people should be part of making decisions about disabled people.



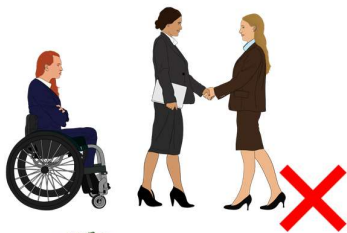
Disabled people know the most about what life is like for them.

3. Upholding equity and culture and identity



This principle is about:

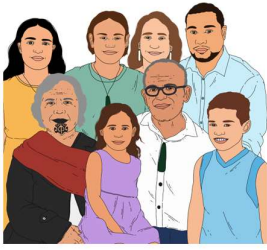
- equity
- non-discrimination
- inclusion.



Here **non-discrimination** means treating everyone in a fair way.



Here **inclusion** means everyone can be part of their communities.



This principle says disabled people are part of many different:

- whānau / families
- communities
- **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.



Some examples of the different cultures are:

- Māori culture
- Pacific culture
- Deaf culture.





The different groups disabled people are part of have their own:

- things that are important to them
- ways of:
 - thinking about who they are
 - doing things.



This principle says the different things that make a person who they are should not make life harder for them.

4. 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.

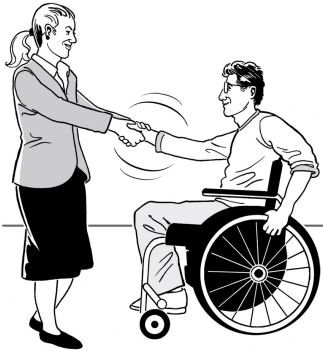


Everyone needs to support disabled people to be part of their:

- communities
- cultures.



5. Respect and dignity



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 disabled people do best when:

- we get rid of the things that make life harder for them
- everyone believes disabled people:
 - can do the things they want to do
 - are important members of their communities.



How we will check the strategy is working



We will check how well the whole strategy is working in 2 ways.



We will write a plan that says what the Government needs to do to make the things in the strategy happen.



This plan will say which parts of the Government are in charge of doing these things.



This plan will be on our website.



Different parts of the Government will tell us how the things they are in charge of are going.



We will also use **indicators** to check how well the:

- vision is working
- principles are working
- priority outcome areas are working.



Here **indicators** are numbers that tell us how well something is working.

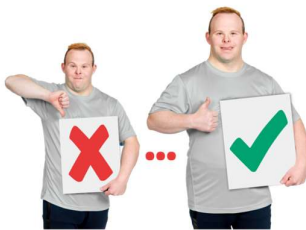


The indicators for the vision and principles are how many:

- disabled people aged 15 years old or older say they:
 - have a good life
 - can make choices about their life
- people aged 15 years old or older say they would feel okay if their new neighbour was a disabled person
- children in **disabled households** live in **material hardship**.



Disabled households are homes where at least 1 person living there is disabled.



Living in **material hardship** means not having the basic things you need like not being able to:

- buy 2 pairs of shoes
- eat fresh vegetables often
- pay bills on time.

If the strategy works the indicators should get better over time.

Other things can also change what the indicators tell us.

Each year we will write a report about how well the strategy is working.

The report will say if other things have changed what the indicators tell us.



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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