



# **New Zealand Disability Strategy**

## **2026 to 2030:**

### **Minister's media release**



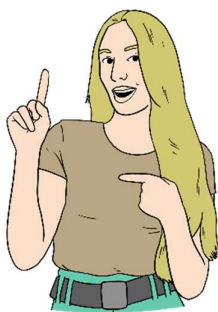
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## About this document



This Easy Read document is from:

- the Minister for Disability Issues  
Louise Upston
- the Ministry of Disabled People –  
Whaikaha.



In this document the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha will be called **Whaikaha**.

When the document says **we / us** it means Whaikaha.



In this document the Minister for Disability Issues Louise Upston will be called **the Minister**.



This Easy Read is about the **New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030**.



Here a **strategy** is a set of long-term plans that are made to reach a goal.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** is a group of plans that tell the Government how to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



In this document the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030 will be called **the Strategy**.



This Easy Read document has **quotes**.

**Quotes** are things people have said.



Quotes will be in yellow boxes.



What the quote means will be written under each quote.

# New disability strategy



The Minister says that the new disability strategy will:

- be about how to make the lives of disabled people better
- make good changes.



The Strategy has **refreshed** the **vision** and **principles** that guide the work done to support disabled people.



**Refreshed** means we have:

- looked at something
- made it better.



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 Strategy also has **goals** and **actions** in:

- education / school
- employment / work
- health
- housing
- justice / the law.





Here **goals** are how we want things to be.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

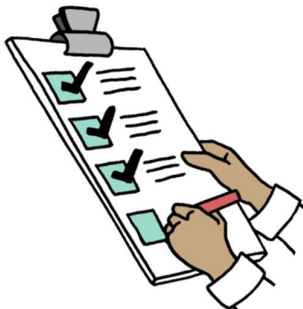
**Actions** are things we will do as part of meeting a goal.



The Strategy shows what the Government will do over the next 5 years to make the lives of disabled people better.



This is the third disability strategy Aotearoa New Zealand has had.



A lot of goals have already been met.

But there is still a lot to do to make sure disabled people can live good lives.

The Minister says:



“Today’s strategy is an important – but not the only – lever for driving positive change for the disabled community.”



This means that the Strategy is only 1 part of making good changes for the disabled community.



“I look forward to seeing improvements in the lives of disabled people, their family and whānau as its actions are implemented.”



This means that the Minister wants to see the Strategy make life better for:

- disabled people
- their whānau / families.

# Goals and actions



The Strategy has goals and actions in lots of different areas.

## Employment / work



The Strategy has actions to support disabled people to have meaningful / important:

- work
- careers / jobs that people do for a long time.



Part of this means giving **employers**:

- resources / things they need
- guidance / support.





An **employer** is someone who hires people to do a job.



These things will support employers to hire disabled people.



Government departments like Whaikaha will **lead by example**.



To **lead by example** means to show people how to do something by doing it first.

# Health

The Strategy says how important it is to make the **health system** more:



- **accessible**
- **inclusive.**



The **health system** means anything to do with caring for your health like:

- doctors clinics
- hospitals
- pharmacies.



Here **accessible** means disabled people have what they need to use the health system.



**Inclusive** means the health system can be used by everyone.



Disabled people use tools when making choices about their lives like:

- **self determination**
- **supported decision making.**



**Self determination** means having control over / making choices about your own life.



**Supported decision making** is when a disabled person is supported to make choices about their life.

## Housing



The Government will work on writing clear guides about what makes a home **accessible**.



Here **accessible** means a disabled person can easily:

- get into their house
- use things in the house like the shower.



The Government will talk with people who know about homes being accessible to write these guides.



There will be a **review** of the **social housing** system to make sure it meets the needs of disabled people.



A **review** means looking at something to see:

- what is working well
- what needs changing.



**Social housing** is homes people can rent from:

- the Government
- a community organisation that works to make sure people have somewhere to live.



## Justice / the law

We will lower the number of disabled children / young people going into the **youth justice system**.

The **youth justice system** handles children / young people who have broken the law / rules of New Zealand.



The Government will create ways to keep disabled people safe when they are in a **place of detention**.



A **place of detention** means somewhere where somebody:

- lives
- cannot leave when they want to.



## Education

The Strategy says it is important to find out the learning needs of children earlier in their lives.



We also need to find new ways to make it quicker for children to get specialist / expert learning support.

## Government



Whaikaha is working on making itself more accessible for disabled people.

# The UNCRPD



The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities made 63 **recommendations** to the Government in 2022.



Here **recommendations** are things the UN Committee thinks the Government needs to do to support disabled people.



Of the 63 recommendations:

- 14 will be worked on as part of the Strategy
- 2 will be worked on outside the Strategy.





The other 46 recommendations:

- are already being worked on
- will be finished as part of the Strategy.



Whaikaha will report to Parliament once a year about:

- how much work has been done as part of the Strategy
- how well the Strategy is working.



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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