

Cabinet paper Appendix 3 – Update on Government response to the UNCRPD Recommendations



Published: January 2026

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.





There is some information in this document that may upset some people when they are reading it.



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

- whānau / family
- friends.



You can also contact Need to Talk by:

- calling 1737
- texting 1737



It does not cost any money to call / text 1737.

What you will find in here

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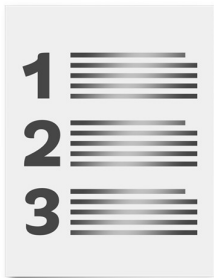


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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of an **appendix** to the **Cabinet paper** – Approval of the of the **New Zealand Disability Strategy**.



Here a **summary**:

- is shorter than the appendix
- tells you the main ideas.



Here an **appendix** is extra information you need to know about.



A **Cabinet paper** is a document:

- from a **Minister**
- asking **Cabinet** to agree to something.



A **Minister** is an important person who works in the Government.

They are in charge of something the Government does like:

- education
- transport.



Cabinet is a group of the most important ministers.

They make important decisions together.



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



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



A **goal** is something we want to make happen.



In this Easy Read we call the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030 the **Strategy**.



This appendix is from the **Minister for Disability Issues**.

The **Minister for Disability Issues** is the person who the Government has put in charge of making things better for disabled people.



The Minister for Disability Issues is Louise Upston.

The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** wrote this summary.



The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** works to make changes for disabled people so their lives are better.

Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha makes things better for disabled people by working with:

- the Government
- the community
- businesses.

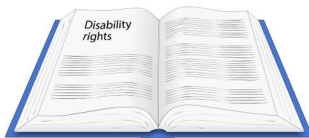
In this Easy Read we call the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha by the name of **Whaikaha**.



This appendix says what work the Government is doing to follow the **recommendations** made by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** Committee.



Here **recommendations** are ways to make something better.



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 to the person you choose.

This appendix tells you about the Government **response** to the 63 recommendations made by the UNCRPD Committee in 2022.

Here **response** is what the Government is going to do to:

- follow these recommendations
- work on these recommendations.



There are 2 sections / parts to this appendix.



Section 1 is about how work on the recommendations will be done through:

- the new Strategy

and

- other projects / work.



Section 2 is about the work that was done on 19 of the UNCRPD Committee recommendations in 2025.



You can find the full Cabinet paper and appendices at:

<https://shorturl.at/j6idi>



The full Cabinet paper is under the heading **Approval of the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 – 2030.**



The full Cabinet paper is **not** in Easy Read.



You can find out more information about the final Strategy 2026 – 2030 at this **website**:

<https://shorturl.at/j6idi>

About the UNCRPD recommendations



At the end of 2024 the Government agreed on what to do for the 63 UNCRPD Committee recommendations.



It was decided to:

- work on 30 of the UNCRPD Committee recommendations right away

and



- think about what to do about 17 recommendations when they made the new Strategy in 2025.



The Government responses can be found on the Human Rights Monitor **website**:

<https://humanrights.govt.nz/>



There are many government agencies leading the work to follow what the recommendations say.



Whaikaha will work with these government agencies to:



- make sure this work is being done
- support them to do this work.

Section 1



Section 1 is about how the Government will work on the UNCRPD Committee recommendations through:

- the new Strategy
- and
- other projects / work.



The Government thought about 17 of the recommendations.

The Government agreed to do work on 16 of the 17 recommendations.



Government agencies will do work on 14 of the recommendations through the new Strategy.



Government agencies will do extra work on 7 of these recommendations through other projects / work.



Government agencies will also work on 2 recommendations:

- through other projects / work

not

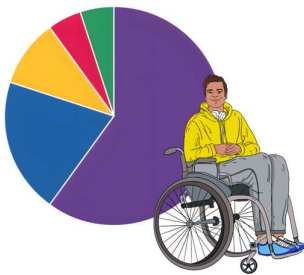
- through the Strategy.





The Strategy will do work on recommendations about things like:

- making sure government agencies understand they have to think about disability when doing their work
- ways to let more people know about:
 - disability
 - disabled people
 - rights of disabled people
- ways to collect and use data / information about disability better.





Other recommendations are related to some of the Strategy **priority outcome areas**:

- health
- housing
- justice.



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



Examples of how actions in the Strategy will be done

Example 1: Health outcome area



In health action 1 of the Strategy there are recommendations about disabled people needing to:

- understand the medical treatment they need to get

and

- give **informed consent** to medical treatments.



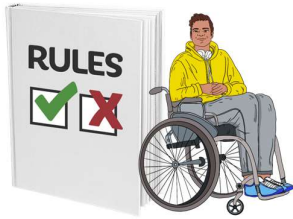
Informed consent is when:

- you say yes to something
- and
- you understand why you have made your decision.



Doing this will:

- make things better for disabled people when getting the healthcare they need
- make sure the health system rules about getting health care work for disabled people
- make the experiences of disabled people better when using the health system
- support disabled people to make good decisions about their own healthcare.



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand want to keep disabled people safe when getting healthcare.



To do this Health New Zealand is making a:

- **safeguarding** policy / rule to guide healthcare workers how to support disabled people
- work programme / plan to support disabled people to be safe.



Safeguarding is doing things to keep someone safe.



Example 2: Housing outcome area

The recommendation on housing **accessibility** will be done by 6 actions in the housing outcome area of the Strategy.

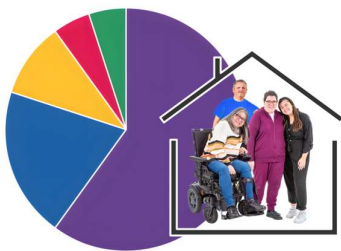


Accessibility is about making things accessible so everyone can use them.



This work will be things like:

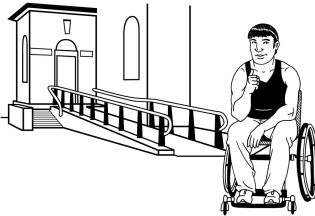
- agreeing on language that says what accessible housing means
- better **data matching** to help disabled people get the social housing right for them.





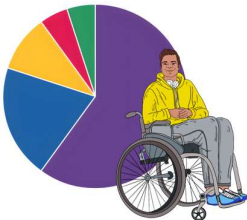
Here **data matching** is:

- looking at information
- and
- finding the people that information is important to.



This work will also be things like:

- finding out:
 - what barriers there are to having more accessible homes
 - if disabled people can **afford** to live in accessible homes
- collecting good data / information about accessible housing
- making **voluntary** guidelines for people to follow when building accessible places.





Afford means having enough money to pay for something.



Here **voluntary** means you can choose to follow these guides when making a house accessible.



Work on another recommendation about housing accessibility will be done outside of the Strategy.



This work will look to see if the **New Zealand Standard** is working for disabled people.



The **New Zealand Standard** is a building standard that says what rules need to be followed to make sure public buildings / spaces are accessible for disabled people.



Example 2: Justice outcome area

These recommendations are about:



- when a person is living in a **place of detention**
- use of restraints to stop someone doing something like by being handcuffed
- **violence in institutions.**



Places of detention are places:

- where some people live
- and
- they cannot leave when they want to.



Violence is when somebody hurts you physically like kicking you.



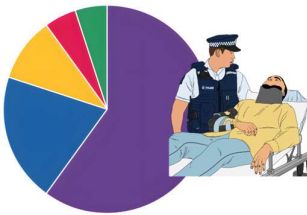
Here an **institution** can be a place disabled people live when they are living in care.



3 actions in the Strategy to work on these recommendations will be doing things like:



- making ways to keep people safe when they are living in a place of detention



- getting good information about how disabled people have experienced **crime**



- making sure staff working with disabled people in the justice system get the right training.



A **crime** is when somebody does something bad to break a **law**.



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



Other work about the justice recommendations will be done outside the Strategy by:

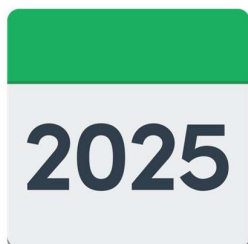


- the Department of Corrections – the government agency that deals with prisons



- Oranga Tamariki – the government agency that manages children living in care.

Section 2



Section 2 is about the work that was done on 19 of the UNCRPD recommendations in 2025.



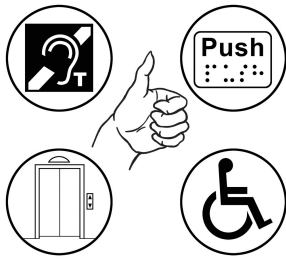
Government agencies have said how much **progress** has been made on this work.



Here **progress** means work that has been done so far to follow the recommendations.



In this section we give you some examples of the work that is happening.



Example 1: Recommendation about an accessibility strategy

This recommendation is about:

- making an accessibility strategy
- following what the accessibility strategy says.



Universal Design should be a main part of the accessibility strategy.



Universal Design means making things that can be used by everyone no matter:

- how old they are
- what size they are
- what disabilities they have.





The accessibility strategy should be designed by working with:

- Disabled Peoples' Organisations
- people who are not always included.



Whaikaha has an accessibility work plan for this recommendation.



This work plan will be about:

- making things accessible like buildings
- people being able to use the internet to get the information they need.





The work plan for the accessibility strategy will also be about:

- making sure disabled people are thought about when managing an **emergency**
- transport.

Here an **emergency** is when something very bad happens that can put you in danger like:

- fires
- earthquakes
- floods.



The **Accessibility Advisory Group** is a group that will give advice to Whaikaha about making accessibility better in New Zealand.



Example 2: Recommendation about making disabled people safer

Many disabled people experience:



- violence
- **gender-based violence**



Gender-based violence is when you are hurt by somebody because of your gender like being a woman.



Disabled people are more likely to experience violence than non-disabled people.



These recommendations are about working to keep disabled people safe from violence.



The **Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence** will do this work.



The **Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence** is a group that:

- works with government agencies
- makes plans to stop family and **sexual violence**.



In this Easy Read we call the Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence the **Executive Board**.



Sexual violence is when someone is makes you do something to do with sex that you do not want to.



The Executive Board is doing things to keep people safe from:

- family violence
- sexual violence.



They are making:

- plans to keep people safe
- guides for government agencies to follow to support people to be kept safe.



These plans and guides should be finished by the end of 2025.



The Ministry of Social Development is also doing work to stop family and sexual violence.



The Ministry of Social Development has made 2 ways to support disabled people to be safe.



These are the:

- **Disability Abuse Prevention and Response Service**

and

- the **People for Us** service.

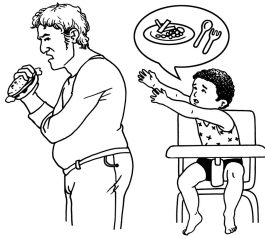


Disability Abuse Prevention and Response Service supports disabled adults who have been:

- **abused**
- **neglected.**



Being **abused** can be when someone hurts you.

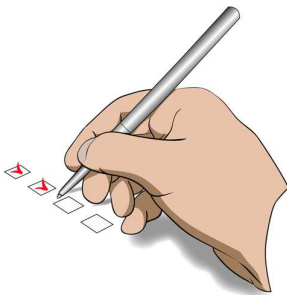


Being **neglected** is when you are not given the things you need like food.



The **People for Us** service visits people who live in **community residential support services** who are:

- disabled
- tāngata whaikaha Māori.

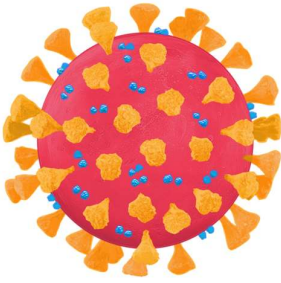


These visits check to see if disabled people are safe.



A **community residential support service** is where a disabled person:

- lives in a group home
- gets support from staff.



Example 3: Recommendation about COVID-19

This recommendation is about the
Government response to the
COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 is a virus that makes
people sick.



A **pandemic** is when many people
around the world get the same
sickness at the same time.



This recommendation is about how well the Government responded:

- during the COVID-19 pandemic to the needs of disabled people
- how disabled people are taking part in planning for pandemics that may happen in the future.



The Ministry of Health is doing the work to follow this recommendation.



They have made a new pandemic plan that has information about what disabled people need during a pandemic.



Example 4: Recommendation about stopping violence in institutions and places of detention



The Department of Corrections is doing work to follow this recommendation.



This recommendation is about stopping:

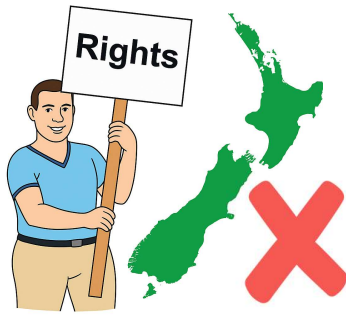
- violence before it happens

and

- **restrictive practices** in:

- places of detention
- institutions.





Restrictive practices are doing things that can stop someone getting their human rights.



Restrictive practices can be things like:

- giving someone medicine to stop them from doing something
- using force to hold someone down
- tying someone to a bed so they cannot move freely.



The Department of Corrections makes reports every 6 months about people being kept in a room where they have to stay alone.



The Department of Corrections also lead a group called the Chief Executive group.



This group is made up of people who work:

- at different government agencies.
- to make the justice system better for people with a learning disability.



The Department of Corrections is also trying a new way to find out if a person they are looking after has a learning disability.



Example 5: Recommendation about supporting Disabled People's Organisations to take part in more decisions



This recommendation is about working with Disabled People's Organisations when making decisions about disabled people.



Whaikaha is working on this recommendation.



Some of the work Whaikaha is doing are things like:

- updating the Whaikaha website
- working with:
 - Disabled People's Organisations
 - the **Strategic Advisory Group**.





The **Strategic Advisory Group** is a group of people that know a lot about disability rights.



Whaikaha are also setting up an Accessibility Advisory Group.



Whaikaha will also work to build the **capability** of Disabled People's Organisations by supporting them to get grants / money to do their work.



Here **capability** is how much work an organisation can do.

This information has been written by 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.



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