

Summary of housing goal and actions



About the Strategy

The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030 is New Zealand's third disability strategy. It sets out the Government's commitment to all disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori (Māori disabled people).

The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha led the work on the strategy. Cabinet agreed the 5 priority outcome areas for the strategy. Content for the strategy was developed with input from disability groups, and by working groups made up of disability community members, sector experts, and officials from relevant government agencies. Public consultation was held on a draft of the strategy, then Cabinet agreed the final version of the strategy.

The strategy covers a 5-year period, from 2026 to 2030, to focus government agencies on meaningful and practical actions that will drive change for disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori.

The strategy includes:

- **A vision and principles** to set the direction for the strategy, and guide work across government for disabled people.
- **5 priority outcome areas** of education, employment, health, housing and justice. Each priority outcome area has **a goal** and **actions**.
- **A monitoring approach**, to measure government's progress delivering the strategy.

Summaries of each part of the strategy

People who want to read the full New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030 can find it on the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha website (www.whaikaha.govt.nz).

The Ministry has also produced summaries of each part of the strategy, for people who do not want to read the whole strategy. These summaries 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

This document is a summary of the housing goal, how progress towards the housing goal will be measured, and the housing actions.



► Housing goal



The strategy has a goal for housing. The goal is:

Disabled people and their whānau have affordable, safe, healthy, secure, and accessible homes that meet their needs and support their independence.

► Measuring progress towards the housing goal

Progress on the goal for housing will be measured using these indicators:

- Percentage of disabled people living in an owner-occupied home.
- Percentage of disabled adults (aged 15 years and over) who rated their housing affordability highly (7 or higher on 0–10 scale).
- Percentage of disabled adults who reported no major problems (cold, damp, mould, no major repairs needed) with their house or flat.

- Percentage of disabled adults (aged 15 years and over) who reported feeling safe or very safe at home by themselves at night.
 - Average wait time for modified social housing on the:
 - Housing register
 - Transfer register.
-



What success in housing means

For disabled people, success in access to housing means:

- a) There are a range of **suitable housing options in the community, so disabled people can choose** who they live with and where they live.
 - b) The **supply of accessible homes meets the demand**, with homes that meet the range and features of accessibility needs. Monitoring will be in place to help ensure supply meets demand.
 - c) **Disabled people enjoy secure tenure in their housing, have the freedom to move** if they want to, and do not experience delays in accessing housing if they are leaving hospital inpatient care.
 - d) **The housing sector understands the accessibility needs of disabled people** and how to build for accessibility.
 - e) **Urban design and planning is fully accessible**, so disabled people can easily access their neighbourhoods, local amenities, and transport.
 - f) Having **suitable housing improves disabled people's outcomes**, including their physical, cultural, family, and mental wellbeing. It helps to protect **disabled people from harm** and unsafe environments.
-



Housing actions

The strategy has a set of actions for housing. The actions are:

1. Develop, consult on and promote clear definitions of accessible homes. These will describe key features of different levels of accessibility (for example, from basic universal design through to fully accessible).

Clear definitions of accessible homes can support the development of voluntary guidelines for accessibility for residential dwellings (housing action 6).

2. Improve data matching between disabled people and social housing properties with appropriate accessible features that meet their needs. This will help ensure disabled people and their whānau are prioritised to accessible properties.

Data matching will identify disabled people's housing needs and social housing that meets those needs. This is particularly important for those with high and/or complex needs. Data collected could inform future investment in the supply of social housing.

3. Identify any barriers to increasing supply of affordable, accessible houses in the private market and investigate how these barriers could be removed.

Understanding barriers to the supply of accessible housing will help target potential interventions to improve supply.

4. Review the housing modification system and look at ways to improve it.

Making the housing modification system more efficient could reduce current problems: inaccessibility of homes, increased costs and health and safety issues for disabled people, whānau and carers.

5. Collect and publish annual data on disabled people's housing needs, to compare with the housing being built in each region. This could help encourage the housing market to produce more accessible housing.

This will help to fill the gap in data on accessible housing and raise the profile of the demand for accessible homes. Data can also be used to measure progress in increasing the supply of accessible housing.

6. Develop voluntary national guidelines on accessibility for residential dwellings.

Guidelines would be based on the definitions for accessible homes in housing action 1 and would set out best practice guidance for how to build accessible homes.

7. Review the social housing system, including considering the diverse needs of disabled people and how these could be addressed.