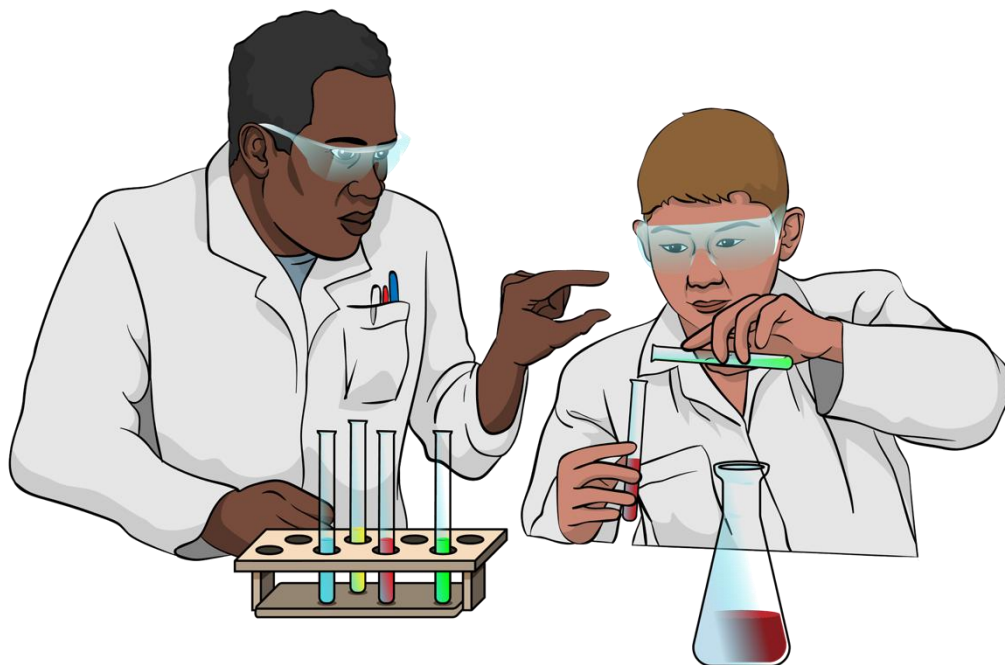




New Zealand Disability Strategy

2026 to 2030:

Education Roadmap



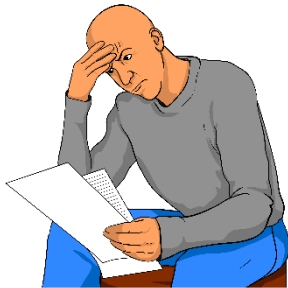
Published: June 2026

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.

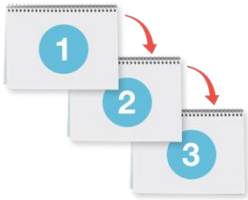


What you will find in here

Page number:



What this Easy Read is about.....3



About the Roadmap7



Education actions.....11



More information30

What this Easy Read is about



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



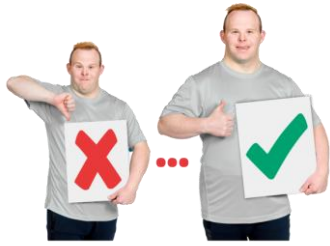
The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** says what the Government will do to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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



The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** was in charge of writing the strategy.



The **Ministry of Disabled**

People – Whaikaha works to make things better for disabled people by working with:

- the Government
- the community which includes:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha
Māori / Māori disabled people
- businesses.

In this Easy Read when we say **Whaikaha** this means the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.

Where it says **we** this means Whaikaha.



The strategy has 5 **priority outcome areas**.



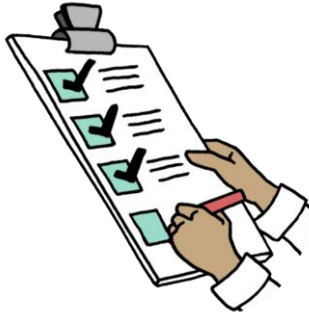
Priority outcome areas are the most important things the strategy will work on.



The priority outcome areas are:

- education / learning
- employment / jobs
- health
- housing
- justice which means things to do with the law.





Each priority outcome area has:

- a **goal**
- **actions**.



Here a **goal** is how we want things to be.



Here **actions** are things we will do to work towards meeting a goal.



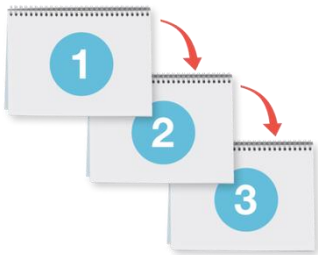
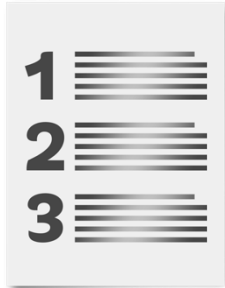
This Easy Read is the **Roadmap** for the education priority outcome area.



Here the **Roadmap** says when the work for each action will be done.

It shows what will happen in the next 5 years.

About the Roadmap

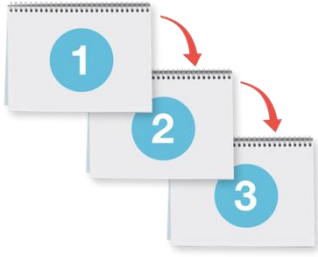


For each action the Roadmap says:

- what the action is
- the **agencies** that will:
 - lead the action
 - support / work on the action
- what **stage** the action will be at in each year.

Here **agencies** means organisations like:

- Government ministries / departments
- service providers
- non-government organisations.

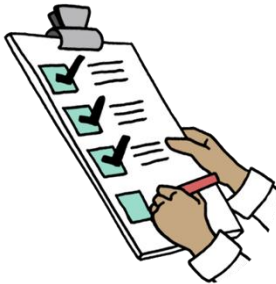


Here **stages** are the steps each action needs to go through to get the work done.



The work for each action has 3 stages:

1. **scoping**
2. **developing**
3. **implementing.**



Here **scoping** means finding out:

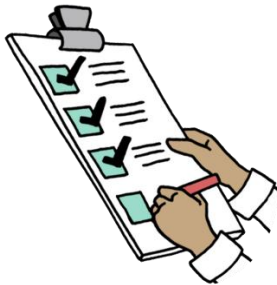
- what work needs to be done for the action
- what information we need before we can do the work.



Here **developing** means making a detailed plan for how we will do the work.



Here **implementing** means doing the work for the action.



Across all the priority outcome areas 13 actions will be implemented in 2026 which could mean:

- the work is started

or

- all the work is done.



6 actions will be developed in 2026.



12 actions will be scoped in 2026.



The work on 3 more actions will start in later years.

In this Easy Read the **actions** are in boxes like this.

Education actions



In this Easy Read we use the word **learner** to mean someone in:

- early childhood education
- school
- other places of learning including:
 - university
 - polytech

Learners are also called ākonga / students.

Education Action 1



The Government is spending over 2 hundred and 50 million dollars on **early intervention services.**



Early intervention services

support children who:

- are disabled
- have a hard time with:
 - learning
 - behaviour
 - **communication.**



Early intervention services give support for children from birth to Year 1 at school.



Here **communication** is things like:

- talking
- using sign language
- understanding other people.



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

This action will be led by the
Ministry of Education.



The **Ministry of Education** is the
part of the Government in charge of
schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.



This action will be supported by:

- organisations that are not part of the Government
- early intervention services that are not run by the Government.



This action will be implemented in **2026**.



The work on this action for **2027** to **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 2



The Government will look at new ways to better support children who need extra help to learn – when they need it.



This will mean learners can get:

- better support
- support when they need it.



Specialist support is when children get extra help for their learning from experts:

- just for them
- in small groups.





This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be supported by organisations that are not part of the Government.



In **2026** this action will be:

- scoped
- developed
- implemented.



The work on this action for **2027** to **2030** has not been decided yet.



Education Action 3



Make the **learning support system** easier to use for:

- teachers
- whānau / families
- learners.



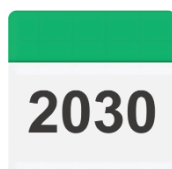
The **learning support system** is how schools and the Government support children who have a hard time with their learning.



This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be implemented in **2026** to **2029**.



The work on this action for **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 4



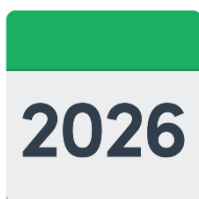
The Government will spend money on building more **specialist classrooms**.



Specialist classrooms are classrooms only for disabled learners.



This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



In **2026** this action will be:

- scoped
- developed
- implemented.





More work on implementing this action will be done in **2027** to **2028**.



The work on this action for **2029** to **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 5



Train teachers better so they can teach disabled learners well.



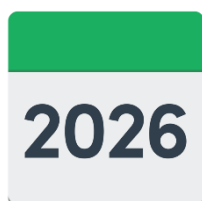
This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be supported by Whaikaha.

In **2026** this action will be:

- scoped
- developed.



More work on developing this action will be done in **2027**.



In **2028** this action will be implemented.



The work on this action for **2029** to **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 6



Make sure schools write reports about what disabled learners are:

- learning
- doing well at.



This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be supported by:

- Whaikaha
- Stats NZ.

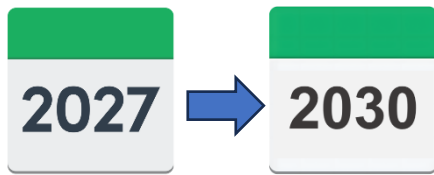


Stats NZ is the part of the Government that collects information about life in Aotearoa New Zealand.



In **2026** this action will be:

- developed
- implemented.



The work on this action for **2027** to **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 7

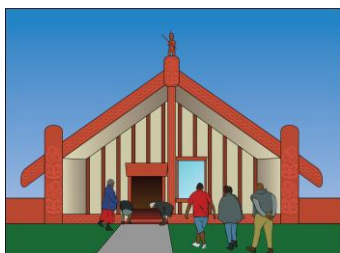


Support **Kaupapa Māori** schools to get better at supporting disabled ākonga / learners.



Kaupapa Māori schools are schools where:

- ākonga / learners learn in te reo Māori / the Māori language
- Māori **culture** is an important part of the school.



Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.

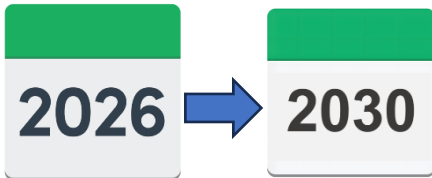




This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



We will decide which agencies will support this action later.



This action will be implemented in **2026 to 2030**.

Education Action 8



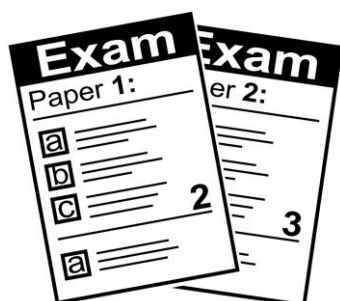
Use **education data** to:

- find out which learners are disabled
- see how disabled learners are doing.



Data means information like:

- facts
- numbers.



Education data is information about education like:

- how many days each year learners go to school
- test results.



This action will be led by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be supported by Whaikaha.

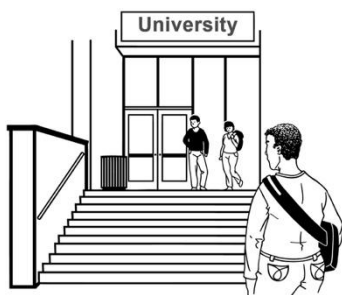


This action will be scoped in **2026**.



The work on this action for **2027** to **2030** has not been decided yet.

Education Action 9



The Tertiary Education

Commission will make sure all tertiary education providers:

- have a **Disability Action Plan**
- follow their Disability Action Plan.

The Tertiary Education

Commission is the part of the Government in charge of **tertiary education** in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tertiary education is any learning you do after you finish school like going to:

- university
- polytechnic.



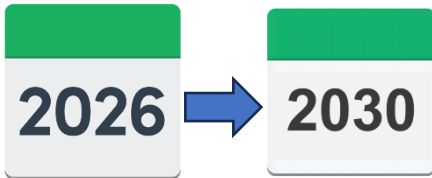
Here a **Disability Action Plan** says what tertiary education providers will do to support disabled learners.



This action will be led by the Tertiary Education Commission.

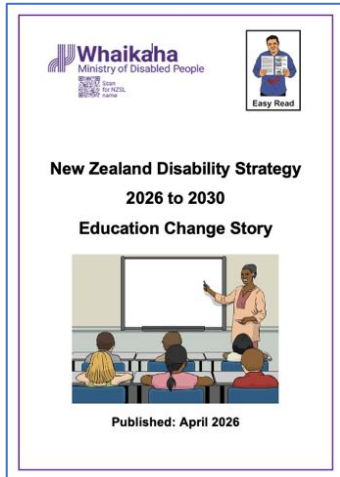


This action will be supported by the Ministry of Education.



This action will be implemented in **2026 to 2030**.

More information



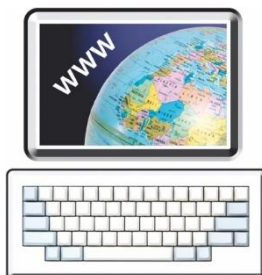
You can find more information about the education priority outcome area in the Easy Read:

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030 Education Change Story at:

<https://shorturl.at/wKTW5>



You can also find Easy Read Roadmaps for other priority outcome areas at:



<https://tinyurl.com/3xn2rsdm>



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.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.



Make it Easy uses images from:

Professional Licence 410887559



- Photosymbols
- Change Images
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- SGC Image Works
- T Wood
- Studio Rebeko
- Inga Kramer.