



# New Zealand Disability Strategy

## 2026 to 2030:

### Housing Change Story



**Published: June 2026**



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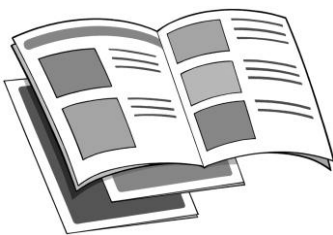
# About this Easy Read



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



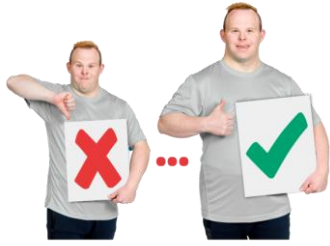
The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** says what the government will do to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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**.



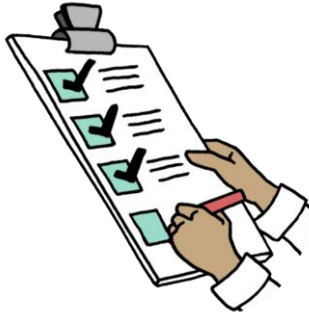
**Priority outcome areas** are the most important things the strategy will work on.



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 a **change story** for the housing priority outcome area.



Here a **change story** tells you:

- what the goal is
- what actions the government will do
- who in the government will do each action
- when the actions will happen
- what might stop the actions from happening.

You can find the other change stories in Easy Read on the Whaikaha website.

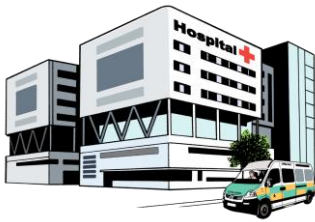
The link for the education change story is:

<https://shorturl.at/wKTW5>



The link for the employment change story is:

<https://shorturl.at/FJghF>



The link for the health change story is:

<https://shorturl.at/8YIE6>



The link for the justice change story is:

<https://shorturl.at/2v9jr>

# Goal for housing



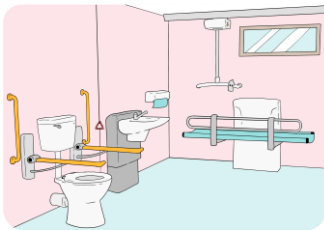
The goal for the housing priority outcome area is for disabled people to have homes that are:

- affordable which means something you can easily pay for
- safe
- healthy
- secure which means knowing you can stay in your home for a long time
- **accessible.**



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

- use things
- do things.



The goal for the housing priority outcome area is also for disabled people to have homes that:

- have the things they need
- support them to be **independent**.



Here being **independent** means:

- doing things for yourself
- making your own choices.



# Actions for housing

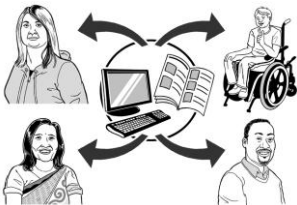


There are 7 actions for the housing priority outcome area.



## Action 1

Write clear definitions / meanings of what accessible homes are.



Make sure everyone knows about the definitions.

## Action 2



Make **data matching** better so disabled people can be given **social housing** that is accessible for them.



Here **data matching** means:

- looking at:
  - what needs a disabled person has
  - how accessible different homes are
- using this information to say which house would be best for each person.

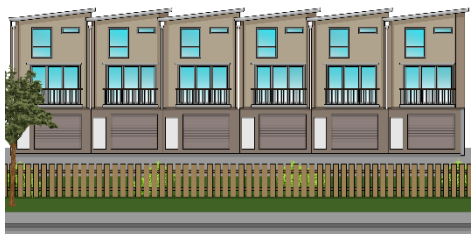


**Social housing** is housing for people who do not have a lot of money.



The government could also use the information about the needs of disabled people to tell it what kinds of social houses it should build in the future.

## Action 3



Look at what stops **private** companies from building more homes that are:

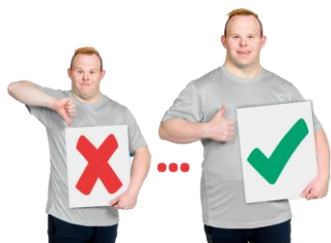
- accessible

and

- affordable.



Here **private** means something that is not part of the government.



Look at what the government could do to make it easier for private companies to build more homes that are:

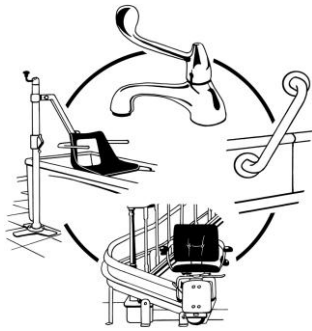
- accessible

- affordable.

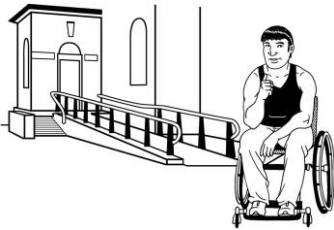
## Action 4



Look at how to make the **housing modification system** better.



The **housing modification system** is the way the government pays for making changes to a home so it is accessible.



Making the housing modification system work better will mean:

- homes are more accessible
- it is cheaper to make the changes disabled people need
- homes are:
  - safer for disabled people
  - healthier for disabled people.

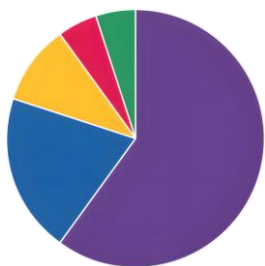


## Action 5

Collect **data** about what:



- housing needs disabled people have
- types of homes are being built in each part of the country.



Here **data** is numbers like the number of people who need a home with a ramp.



Private companies might build more accessible homes if they know how many people need accessible homes.



The data can also be used to see if more accessible homes are being built.

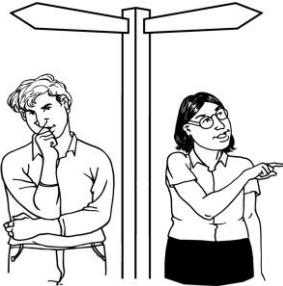


## Action 6

Write **voluntary guidelines** about making homes accessible.



**Guidelines** are ideas about how to do something.



**Voluntary guidelines** means people only have to use the ideas if they want to.



The guidelines will:

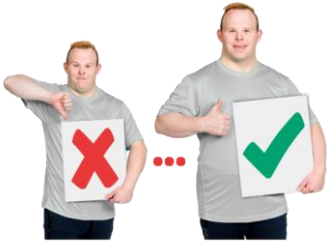
- be based on the definitions of accessible homes from action 1
- tell people how to build accessible homes.



## Action 7

Look at the ways social housing is run to find out what:

- needs disabled people have
- changes would make social housing work better for disabled people.



## What work is happening on the actions?



Lots of different parts of the government will work together on the housing actions.



Work on most of the actions will start in 2026.



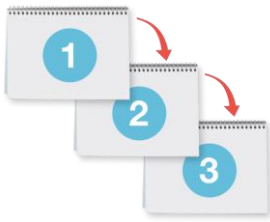
Work on action 6 will start in 2028.



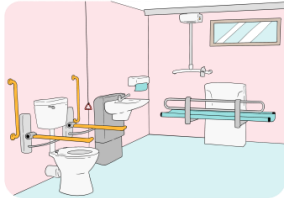
Action 6 is about writing voluntary guidelines about making homes accessible.



Some of the actions are linked together.



This means work on some actions has to start before work on the actions linked to that action can start.



For example action 1 is about defining what accessible homes are.



The voluntary guidelines from action 6 are based on these definitions so action 1 needs to be finished before action 6 can start.



Action 1 is also linked to:

- action 3 about working out what stops private companies from building more homes that are:

- accessible

and

- affordable

- action 5 about collecting data about what:

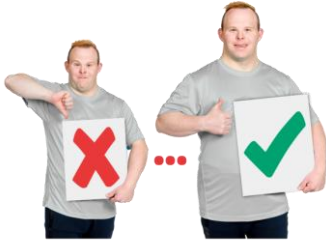
- housing needs disabled people have

- types of homes are being built in each part of the country.

Action 2 is about using data so disabled people can be given social housing that is accessible for them.



Action 2 is linked to action 7 about looking at the social housing system to find out what:



- needs disabled people have
- changes would make it work better for disabled people.



Action 2 will be part of looking at the social housing system.



Action 2 is important to disabled people who need social housing so it is both:

- its own action
- part of action 7.



The work on action 3 will probably be writing a report about what:

- stops private companies from building more homes that are:

- accessible

and

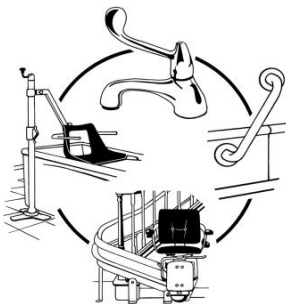
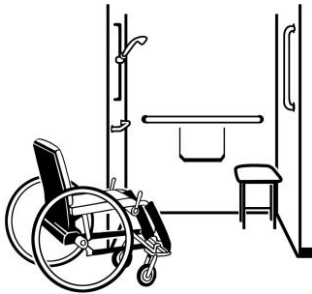
- affordable homes

- the government could do to make it easier for private companies to build more homes that are:

- accessible

and

- affordable.



Action 4 is about making the housing modification system better.



Making the housing modification system better is linked to other work the government is doing to make **Disability Support Services** better.

## Disability Support Services



**Disability Support Services** is the part of the government that pays for supports for disabled people like:

- equipment like:
  - tools that support people to talk to other people
  - a cane for a blind person
- Carer Support so a person who cares for a disabled person can take a break
- Individualised Funding so disabled people can:
  - decide what supports they need

- pay for their supports.

Action 5 is about using data to see:



- what houses there are
- if there are enough accessible homes for disabled people.

As part of this action the government will:



- write a report
- update the report often.



Many of the actions are linked to work the government is doing to make housing more accessible for older people.

# What might stop the actions from happening?

Action 5 is about collecting data about what:



- housing needs disabled people have
- types of homes are being built in each part of the country.



The government is changing the way it collects data.



These changes could affect how we collect data for action 5.



At the moment the government does not collect good data about how accessible new homes are.



The government needs to collect this data for action 5 to happen.



Many of the actions are linked to other work the government is doing.



The actions might happen more slowly if the other work the government is doing is slow.



Other things can change if homes are affordable like how many:

- people want to buy a new home
- people want to sell their home
- builders there are.



These things could make some of the actions harder.



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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