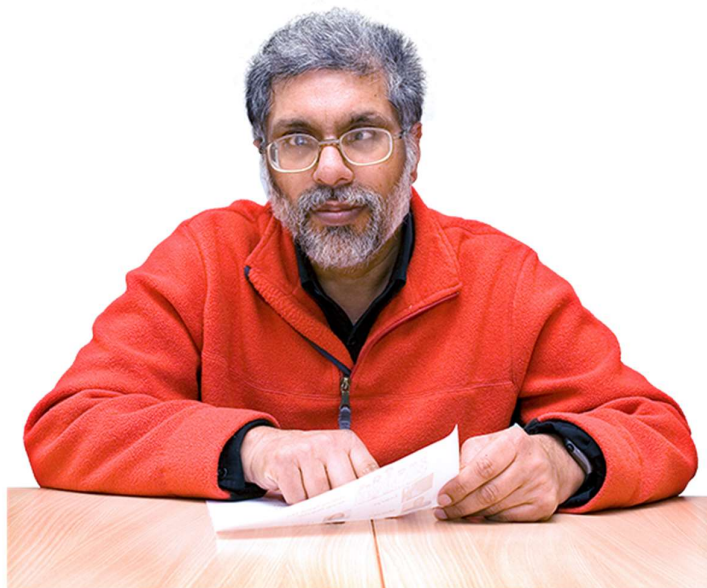


An update from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People



Published: October 2023

About this document



This Easy Read document is from **Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People**.



Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People is the part of the Government that works on things to do with disabled people.



In this document:

- Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People is called **Whaikaha**
- when you see the words **we / us** it means Whaikaha.



This is the October 2023 newsletter from Whaikaha.

What you will find in this document

Page number:



A change to the Office for
Disability Issues5



United Nations Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities
.....8



An update on My Home
My Choice 14



An update on funding for
Enabling Good Lives..... 20



What is the Transformation
Management Board?24



More COVID-19 antiviral
treatment.....27



How to work with us30



How to contact us 32

A change to the Office for Disability Issues

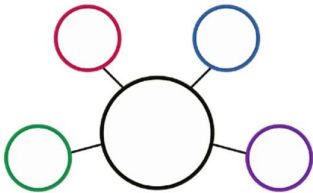


The Office for Disability Issues is also called **ODI** for short.

The ODI:



- was part of the Ministry of Social Development
- worked with lots of government departments on things to do with disability.

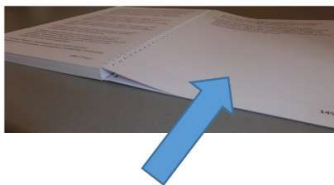


The ODI became a part of Whaikaha on 1 August 2023.



The ODI team is now part of the Whaikaha Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Group.

The ODI team are working on:



- government plans called:
 - the New Zealand Disability Strategy
 - the New Zealand Disability Action Plan
- advice for the Minister for Disability Issues
- giving advice to different people based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities called UNCRPD for short.

We will talk more about the UNCRPD on **page 7** of this document.



The New Zealand Sign Language **Board** has stayed the same.



A **board** is a group of people who look after how a group / service is run.



The team of people who support the New Zealand Sign Language Board has also stayed the same.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



In 2008 the New Zealand Government said that they agree with the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

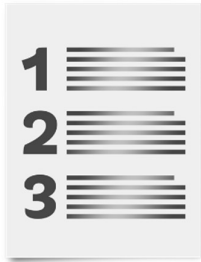


The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UNCRPD**.

The UNCRPD is a law lots of countries have agreed to.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



The UNCRPD:

- looked at how well Aotearoa New Zealand was following the laws set out by the UNCRPD
- gave 60 **recommendations** on how Aotearoa New Zealand could be doing better.

Recommendations are things that could be done to make things better.



Since September 2022 Whaikaha has been working with different government agencies to work on the 60 recommendations.



The Government has agreed to do 51 of the recommendations.



The next step is for the Minister for Disability Issues to:

- report back to **Cabinet** on how well different agencies are following the recommendations
- ask Cabinet to agree that there should be a **monitoring process**.



Cabinet:

- is a group of people called ministers who have worked in the Government for a long time
- meets to make important decisions.



A **monitoring process** means looking over how well the recommendations are being worked on.



The monitoring process will also look at the recommendations the Government is not following.



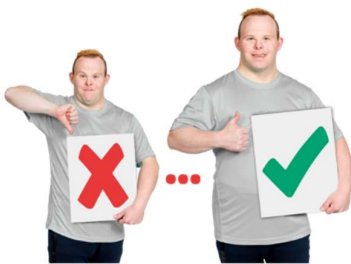
The Government has agreed to hold a **public forum** with the disability community by December 2027.



A **public forum** is when the public is asked to say what they think about something.

The answers from the public forum will help the Government see if:

- things are getting better
- people working on the recommendations need to make changes.





More information on how the Government is following the recommendations from the UNCRPD is available in the document called:

Cabinet agrees on a response to recommendations from UNCRPD examination.



You can find the full document at:

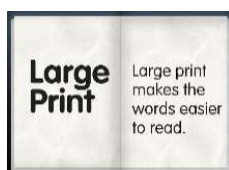
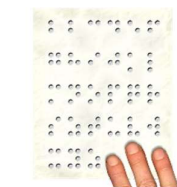
<https://rb.gy/phmfw>



The document is **not** in Easy Read.

The full document is also available in:

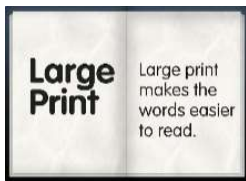
- Braille
- audio
- Large Print.





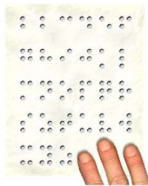
You can find an Easy Read summary of the recommendations document on the Whaikaha website at:

<https://rb.gy/3de00>



The summary is also available in:

- Large Print
- audio
- Braille
- New Zealand Sign Language.



An update on My Home My Choice

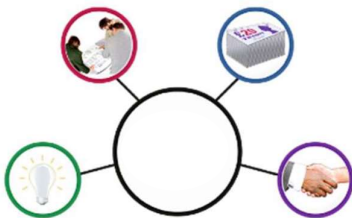


Whaikaha is working on a **programme** called **My Home My Choice**.



A **programme** is work to make something happen like:

- what needs to be done
- who needs to do the work
- what happens if something changes.





The **My Home My Choice**

programme looks at what changes are needed so that people who live in **residential services** have more:

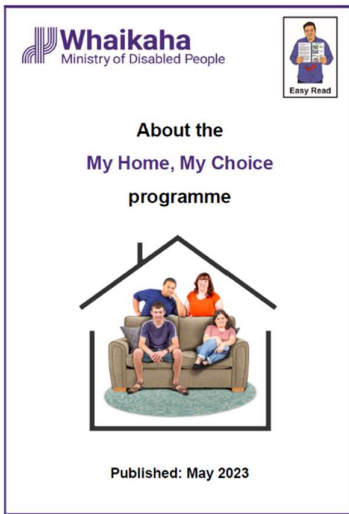
- choice in their lives
- control in their lives.



Residential services are when disabled people:

- live in a house in the community
- get support all through the day / night.





You can find out more about the programme in the Easy Read document called:

About the My Home My Choice programme.

You can find this document on our website at:

<https://rb.gy/wuq53>





The My Home My Choice programme team includes a **steering group**.



A **steering group** is a group of people who guide the work being done on the programme.



The steering group is made up of 7 people.

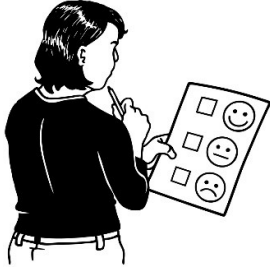


The leaders of the group are:

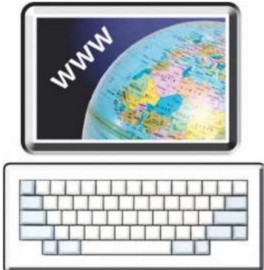
- Sir Robert Martin – Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
- Gary Williams – Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.



The steering group have had their first meeting.



People will be able to say what they think about the My Home My Choice programme soon.



You can find out more about My Home My Choice at:

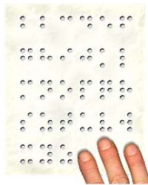
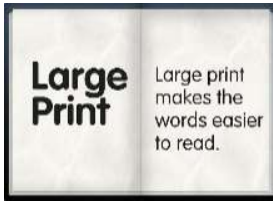
<https://whaikaha.govt.nz/mhmc>



You can find an Easy Read information about My Home My Choice at:

<https://shorturl.at/BDOT8>

You can also read a summary of the information about My Home My Choice in other alternate formats / languages like:



- Large Print
- audio
- Braille
- New Zealand Sign Language
- te reo Māori
- Samoan
- Tongan.

An update on funding for Enabling Good Lives



Funding is money given to someone / a group to support them to do something.



In September 2023 the Government told Whaikaha they have about 70 million dollars to use between:



- 2023
- 2027.



The Government also said they will have about 40 million dollars after 2027.

Enabling Good Lives

This money is to change the disability system to follow the **Enabling Good Lives** way of doing things.



Enabling Good Lives is a different way of thinking about disability support.

Enabling Good Lives is about having:

- choice and control in your life
- the support you need and want
- a good life.

A group called **Transformation Management Office** is being put together in Whaikaha.

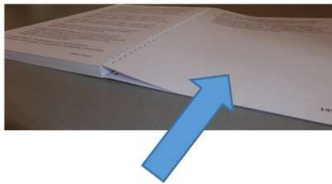
This office will look over:



- what the changes in the disability system will look like
- how the disability system will be changed.



This office will be looked after by the Transformation Management Board.



We will talk more about the Transformation Management Board on **page 23**.

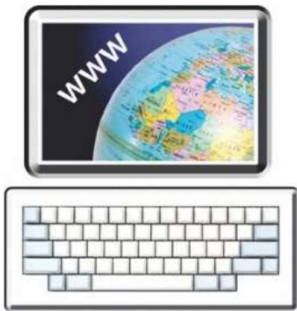
The Board is made of 3 groups of people:



- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori
- people who work at Whaikaha.



You can find out more about the funding on our website at:



<https://whaikaha.govt.nz/sept-fund>

What is the Transformation Management Board?



We wanted to make sure that the Transformation Management Board includes:

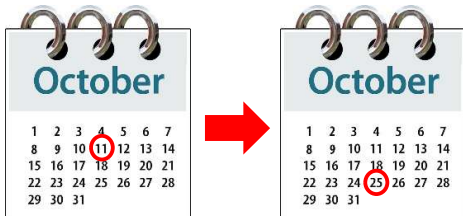


- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori.



Our video newsletter let people know that they could apply to be on the Transformation Management Board:

from **11 October 2023**

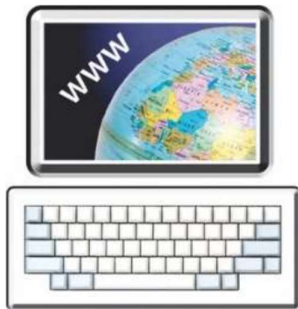


to **25 October 2023**.



You can find out more information about the Board in an Easy Read document called:

Looking for people to be on a Transformation Management Board.



You can find this document on our website at:

<https://shorturl.at/apBY4>



The main job of people who are part of the Transformation Management Board is to give:

- advice
- support.



Board members will be paid money for the work they do.

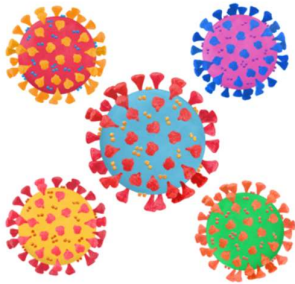


They may also have to travel as part of their work.

More COVID-19 antiviral treatment



Since 1 October 2023 it is easier for some people to get **antiviral treatments** for COVID-19.



Antiviral treatments are a kind of medicine that supports your body to get better from sickness caused by viruses like:

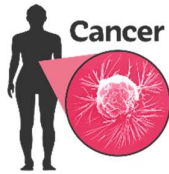
- COVID-19
- the flu.



The antiviral treatment is for people who are more likely to get very ill if they get COVID-19 like:



- disabled people
- people with 1 or more health conditions like cancer.



Changes to who could get the antiviral treatment were made after a group called **Pharmac** asked people what they thought in August 2023.

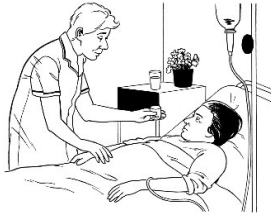


Pharmac works as part of the Government to make sure:

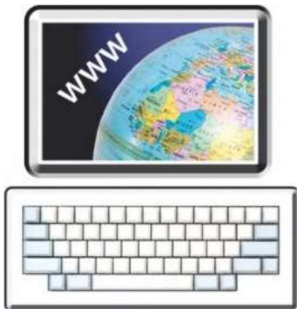


- people in Aotearoa New Zealand can get the medicines they need
- the medicines are safe to use.

The people Pharmac asked included:



- patients – people who are getting healthcare
- carers – people who care for / look after other people
- people who work in healthcare
- Whaikaha staff members.



You can find out more about how people can get antiviral treatments on the Pharmac website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2kr8cy>



The information on the Pharmac website is **not** in Easy Read.

How to work with us



We are looking for more people to work with us at Whaikaha.



You can find out more about what kind of jobs you could do on our website at:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/comms



You can also watch a video about what it is like to work at Whaikaha at:

<https://rb.gy/rvres>

In this YouTube video are:



- Paula Tesoriero who is the Chief Executive of Whaikaha
- Ben O'Meara who is the Deputy Chief Executive of Whaikaha.

How to contact us



We will share another update about what is happening at Whaikaha soon.



You can get in touch with us to let us know:

- if there is something you would like to hear about in future updates
- what you think about the things we are doing
- if you want to talk to us about anything else.



You can find out how to get in touch with us on our website at:

<https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/contact-us/>

You can get in touch with us:



- by **email** at:

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz

- by **phone** on:

0800 566 601

- by **text** on:

4206





You can call us on the phone:

- from 8 am to 5 pm on:
 - Monday
 - Tuesday
 - Thursday
 - Friday



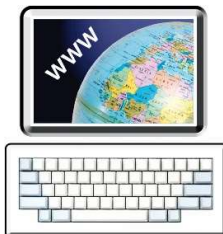
- from 9.30 am to 5 pm on:
 - Wednesday.





If you find it hard to use the phone the **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:

- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:

www.nzrelay.co.nz

The New Zealand Relay service can get in touch with us for you:



- on Monday to Friday
- from 7 am to 6 pm.



This information has been written by Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



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.



Make it Easy uses images from:



- Changepeople.org
- Photosymbols.com
- SGC Image Works
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- T. Wood.



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