



An update from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People



Newsletter

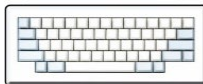
December 2022

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Message from Paula Tesoriero



Kia ora / Welcome to the first newsletter from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



My name is Paula Tesoriero.

I am the **Chief Executive** for Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



A **Chief Executive** is someone who is in charge of an organisation.



This newsletter gives you an update about what work has been happening at Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.

In this newsletter we will call
Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled
People – **Whaikaha** for short.



Whaikaha is almost 6 months old.

I have been in my job for 3 months.



A lot of things have happened in that
time.



I have met a lot of people who do
really important work.

We are working on being able to do a
lot more things.



2023 is going to be very busy for us.



What people at Whaikaha have been working on so far



Some of the things we have been working on are:



- our website – www.whaikaha.govt.nz
- social media like Facebook
- online hui / meetings where people can ask questions
- finding more people to work for us.



There is more information about all of these later in this newsletter.

Changes to Disability Support



From 2023 we will be working to change disability support services in all of New Zealand to work in an **Enabling Good Lives** way.

Enabling Good Lives



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.

We will do this by working together with:

- the disability community
- Māori.





It is important to us that we get it right.



Enabling Good Lives will make a better future for:



- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- their whānau / family.



We have also been working hard to make sure moving disability support services from Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health goes well.

Feedback from the United Nations



In August some people from Whaikaha went to a meeting at the **United Nations** office in Geneva in Switzerland.



The **United Nations** office brings together people from a lot of different countries to work together on important things.



The United Nations gave us some **feedback** about how well New Zealand is doing at making the things in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** happen.

Feedback is saying what they think about how things are going.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a document lots of countries have agreed to.

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



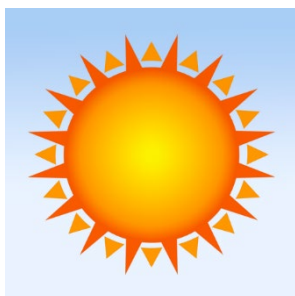
We are now working on what we will say to the United Nations about the feedback.

Wishing you the best for 2023



2022 has been:

- busy
- another hard year with the COVID-19 pandemic.



I am looking forward to spending some time with my whānau / family this summer.



I hope you:

- enjoy your summer celebrations like Christmas
- have a calm start to 2023.



Ngā mihi nui / Many thanks

Paula Tesoriero

Our website



You can find more information about Whaikaha on our **website** at:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz



Since we started our website we have added a lot of information about:



- what we are doing
- how to get support
- news
- who we are.



We keep working on our website together with people in the disabled community.

We will keep asking how we can make:



- our website better
- it easier for you to access what you need.

We would like to hear from you if you:



- cannot find the information you need
- have ideas about how to make our website better.



There is information on how to get in touch in the next part of this document.

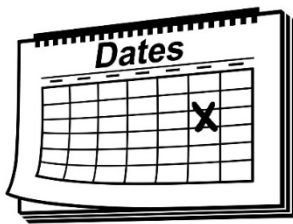
Online hui / meetings



In November we started our Question and Answer meetings on **Zoom**.



Zoom is a way of talking with people on the internet using video.



We plan to have these meetings every month.



These meetings are a chance for you to ask questions.

We plan to invite:

- people who work at Whaikaha
- speakers from the community.





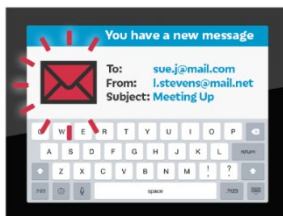
We will post information about when each meeting will be:

- on our website at:

whaikaha.govt.nz



- on Facebook



- in our email newsletter.



If you are not signed up to our newsletter you can email us at

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz



We will put recordings of the meetings on our website at:

whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/news/

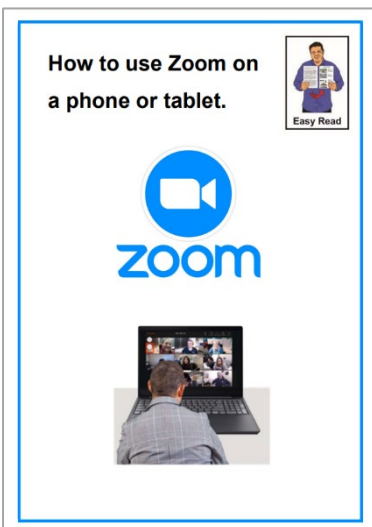


You can find some Easy Read guides about how to use Zoom on the People First New Zealand **website**:

www.peoplefirst.org.nz

The Easy Read guides are called:

- **How to use Zoom using a computer or laptop**
- **How to use Zoom using a phone or tablet.**



Have your say

There are lots of different ways you can tell us what you think.



What you tell us is important to how the government supports the disabled community.



You can **phone** us on:

0800 566 601

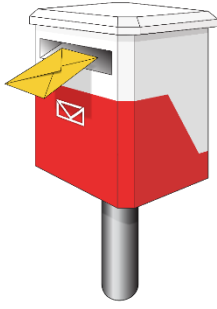


The phone call will not cost you any money.



You can send us a **text** at:

4206



You can **post** us a letter to:

Reply Paid 26224

PO Box 1556

Wellington



You do not need a stamp for this letter.



You can also contact us by **email** at:

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz



If you use New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL you can also send a video to this email address.



You can also contact us on social media.

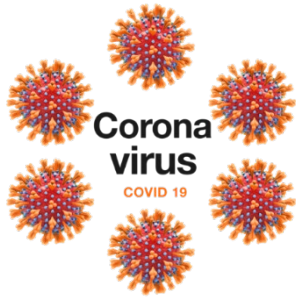
Our **Facebook** page is at:

www.facebook.com/whaikaha.govt



Our **LinkedIn** page is at:

www.linkedin.com/company/whaikaha-ministry-of-disabled-people/



There is a **COVID-19 Disability helpline** if you need support for anything to do with COVID-19 like:

- vaccines
- testing
- looking after yourself at home when you have COVID-19.



You can contact the COVID-19 Disability helpline:

- by phone on:

0800 11 12 13

- by text at:

8988.





You can contact the COVID-19 Disability helpline at any time.



You do not need to pay for the phone call.

Jobs at Whaikaha



As Whaikaha gets set up we will be sharing information about jobs.

We expect there will be different jobs in different parts of Whaikaha.

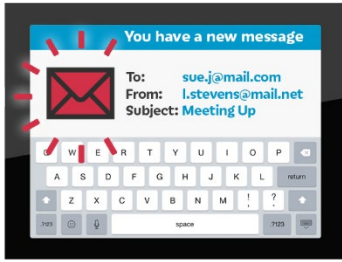


Jobs will be listed on this **website**:

<https://jobs.msd.govt.nz/go/Whaikaha/9001500/>



We are working on making sure everyone can use the website.



If you have any problems using the website please contact us at:

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz



We will be happy to assist you.



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

It has been translated into Easy Read
by the Make It Easy service of People
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