



Briefing to the Incoming Minister – Minister for Disability Issues the Honourable Penny Simmonds



Published: February 2024

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.



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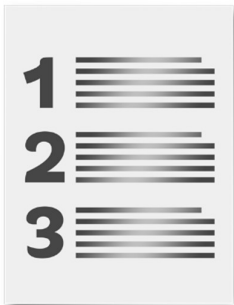
What this Easy Read document is about



This Easy Read document is a **summary** of the **Briefing to the Incoming Minister**.



A **Briefing to the Incoming Minister** is described on **pages 6 to 8**.



A **summary** is:

- shorter than the main document
- tells you the main ideas.



This Briefing to the Incoming Minister is written by Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People for the Minister for Disability Issues the Honourable Penny Simmonds.



In this document **we / us** means
Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled
People.

In this document **you** refers to the
Minister for Disability Issues.



The full Briefing to the Incoming
Minister can be found at this
website:

tinyurl.com/4kh2jrue



This website is not in Easy Read.

What is a Briefing to the Incoming Minister?



A **Briefing to the Incoming Minister** is a document a Minister gets when a new government comes into parliament.



A Briefing to the Incoming Minister is shortened to **BIM**.



We give a BIM to the Minister after:

- an election
- or
- when a new Minister begins work on their **portfolio**.





A **portfolio** means all the things a Minister is **responsible** for when doing their job.



Responsible means the things a person:

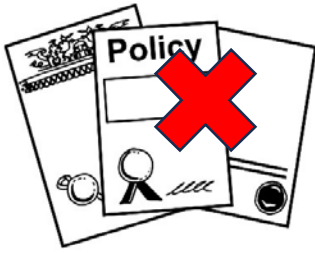
- must do
- must take care of.

The BIM tells the Minister about:

- their portfolio
- the Ministry they are working for
- what the Ministry is doing.



The BIM is a summary of all the important things the Minister needs to know when starting their job.



The BIM does not give details about **policy**.



A **policy** is a set of rules that supports the decisions being made by:

- the Government
- an organisation.

Welcome to the disability portfolio



Welcome to your job as Minister for Disability Issues.

Whaikaha is here to support you.



As Minister for Disability Issues you:

- take the lead to make sure good lives are enjoyed by:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori
 - their whānau / families
- are responsible for making sure Whaikaha works well.





As Minister for Disability Issues you are responsible for about 2 billion dollars that Whaikaha spends on their support services.



Your work includes leading how the Government deals with the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement between lots of countries.

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



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

You assist the Government to do things for the disabled community by using the agreements made in:



- the UNCRPD
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.**



Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi is a legal document that was signed in 1840.



Te Tiriti / The Treaty is important to Aotearoa New Zealand.

It is about Māori and the New Zealand Government:

- making decisions together
- protecting things that are important to Māori.





You lead the work to change the disability system by:

- using the ideas of **Enabling Good Lives**
- changing to the **social model of disability**.

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.



There is more about the **social model of disability** on **page 17**.



To make these changes to the disability system you will need to ask other government ministers to work together.

You will need to ask the ministers to listen to:



- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori.

What is like to be disabled in Aotearoa New Zealand?



Aotearoa New Zealand has not always treated disabled people well.



Disabled people have:

- been treated as a problem
- been excluded
- not been allowed basic rights.



The **medical model of disability**:

- treats disability as a medical condition
- tells disabled people they need to fit in.





The **medical model of disability** has meant disabled people:

- have been seen as a problem
- are blamed if they do not fit in.



The medical model has meant a lot of **discrimination** has happened against disabled people.



Discrimination is when people are treated differently because of their disability.



Discrimination happens when disabled people cannot access:

- places
- activities
- information.





The **social model of disability** says it is the world we live in that puts **barriers** up that make it harder for disabled people to live a good life.



Barriers are things that make it harder for disabled people.



The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 – 2026 has more information about how Aotearoa New Zealand follows the social model of disability.



You can read the Easy Read New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 – 2026 on this **website**:

tinyurl.com/yc6s2awb

What is the disability community?



The 2013 Disability Survey says there are about 1 million disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



This includes 1 hundred and 76 thousand tāngata whaikaha Māori.



Not all disabled people need support from the Government.



The disabled people who do need support fit into 3 groups including:

- people who need a lot of support in their everyday life

- people who:

- need some support

and

- want accessibility improved

- people who are:

- only sometimes impaired

or

- only impaired for a short time.





There are lots of different supports for disabled people given by different government agencies including:

- Whaikaha if people:
 - are under 65 years of age
 - need home support
 - need **respite care**
 - need equipment like a powerchair
 - need changes to their home.



Respite care is care that happens for a short time.



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



Supports for disabled people that are given by different government agencies also include:

- Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand if people:
 - are over 65 years of age
 - have a mental health condition
 - have a health condition that lasts for a long time
- the Ministry of Social Development if people need support for:
 - money they need to live on
 - getting work.



Supports for disabled people that are given by different government agencies also include:



- the Ministry of Transport if a person needs things like cheaper taxis



- the Ministry of Education if a person at school needs:



- support
- **accommodations.**

Here **accommodations** means changing something so it can be used by a disabled person.



Disabled people often need more than 1 kind of support.



Disabled people have worse **outcomes** than people who are not disabled.



Outcomes are how things end up for people.

For example an outcome might be if people get better after medical treatment.



Disabled people are more likely to:

- have bad health
- not get good work
- not be paid as much for their work
- not have enough money
- not live in good houses.





Outcomes are worse for tāngata
whaikaha Māori because of:

- **racism**
- **colonisation.**



Racism means nasty or unfair
treatment of someone because of:

- where they come from
- their language
- their skin colour.





Colonisation is when a group of people from 1 country called colonisers:

- set up home in another country
- take over the country from the people who already live there.

Colonisers bring their own ideas about how they think people should live like:

- the religion they follow
- the language they speak
- the laws they agree to
- other things they might do that are part of how they live.

New Zealand was colonised by the British.



We know things need to be done to make disability support better for tāngata whaikaha Māori.



This will be done by using support ideas that are important to Māori.

What is Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People?



Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People was set up to make the disability system work better for:

- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori.



We do this by:

- working together with:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori
 - their whānau / families
- using the ideas of Enabling Good Lives.



Enabling Good Lives



We also make sure the disability system works better by:

- making good policy
- supporting other parts of the Government to make good policies that include disabled people.



The three **pou / pillars** that support us to do this work are:

- Te Tiriti / The Treaty
- the UNCRPD
- Enabling Good Lives.



Enabling Good Lives



Here **pou / pillars** means big ideas that guide people on how they can do something.



Whaikaha started on 1 July 2022.



We are making good progress on being fully set up.

What are our partnerships?



A **partnership** means working with other people to make things happen.



Whaikaha wants to work with:

- disabled people
- Māori
- the Government.



We are making 6 groups.

1. Transformation Management Board



The **Transformation Management Board** is a group of people who will make the decisions about changing disability support services.



The Transformation Management Board looks after the work for the **Executive Leadership Team**.



The **Executive Leadership Team** are the heads of Whaikaha.

2. Strategic Advisory Group

The Strategic Advisory Group provides advice on:

- policy work
- important things we want to do
- **Cabinet papers**
- how things have changed for disabled people.



Cabinet is a group of senior government ministers.

Cabinet meets in Parliament to make important decisions.

Cabinet papers are documents that are made for these meetings.



3. Insights Alliance

The Insights Alliance watches what is going on with:

Enabling Good Lives



- Enabling Good Lives
- how the disability system is changing
- how the **Monitoring Evaluation Analysis and Learning** system is being put in place.



The **Monitoring Evaluation Analysis and Learning** system is a set of rules that will support Whaikaha as it makes changes to the disability system.

4. Rangatahi / Youth network



The Rangatahi / Youth **network** makes a way for young disabled people to talk about changes that will support them to lead good lives.



A **network** is all the ways people can be in contact with each other.

5. Whānau / Family network



The Whānau / Family network lets whānau / family be a part of making things better for disabled people so they can lead good lives.

6. Transformation project groups



Transformation project groups are teams at Whaikaha who do big jobs that make big changes to the disability system.



The first group is **My Home My Choice**.



My Home My Choice looks at what changes are needed so that people in **residential services** have more:

- choice in their lives
- control in their lives.



Residential services are when disabled people:

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



The My Home My Choice group are:

- coming up with all the things to make the project work
- putting things in place
- looking at how well the project works.





Another way we are creating partnerships is by:

- listening to lots of different disabled people
- having them support us as we make decisions.



Disabled people are working with us to make different ways this can happen.



Another way we are creating partnerships is by giving 1 million dollars to support:

- disabled leaders
- and
- their organisations.





This will let disabled leaders make decisions about:

- themselves
- how resources are used
- how they work with the Government
- how they can work for disabled communities.



What are the important strategies and inquiries?



Whaikaha are in charge of 5 strategies / action plans.



These strategies / action plans will be looked at again while this Government is in Parliament.

1. The New Zealand Disability Strategy



The New Zealand Disability Strategy is a 10 year plan.



It talks about the important things we need to do to make a **non-disabling society**.



A non-disabling society means:

- everything is accessible
- disabled people are treated fairly
- there is no discrimination
- disabled people have what they need to live a good life.



2. Disability Action Plan

The Disability Action Plan is a 4 year plan.



It is a list of things the Government will try to do to make things better for disabled people.

3. New Zealand Sign Language Strategy



The New Zealand Sign Language Strategy sets out the work that needs to be done to keep New Zealand Sign Language as an **official language**.



An **official language** is a language that the Government has said is to be used by law for people who need it.

This work needs to be done by:

- the NZSL board
- the New Zealand Government.



4. Whāia Te Ao Mārama

Whāia Te Ao Mārama is a 4 year plan.



It says what needs to be done to make things better for:

- tangata whaikaha Māori

and

- their whānau / families.





5. Faiva Ora National Pasifika Disability Plan

The Faiva Ora National Pasifika Disability Plan is a 4 year plan.

It says what needs to be done to make things better for:



- Pacific disabled people
- and
- their families.



Whaikaha is also part of 3 inquiries that are going on now.



The things learned from these inquiries will become a big part of how we:



- fund things
- do our job.



The 3 inquiries are:



- the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry
- the Waitangi Tribunal Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry
- the All of Government COVID-19 Royal Commission of Inquiry.



What are the disability support services Whaikaha does?



An important thing Whaikaha does is offers support services for disabled people.



These services cost about 2 billion dollars.



These services support about 50 thousand disabled people who are under the age of 65.



Every year we also support about 100 thousand people to get:

- equipment
- services that change things like their:



- home
- car.

What are the system changes Whaikaha is making?



Whaikaha is changing the disability support services system by working with:

- disabled people
- tangata whaikaha Māori
- whānau / families.



These changes will be made:

Enabling Good Lives

- using Enabling Good Lives ideas
- by moving away from the Government choosing what is right for disabled people.





The changes to the disability system will also be made by making sure disabled people have:

- choice
- control.



3 pilot demonstration sites have been set up using Enabling Good Lives ideas.



A **pilot demonstration** is trying out something to see if it works.



A **pilot demonstration site** is a place where it is being tried out.



These demonstration sites were set up before Whaikaha started.

They are now part of Whaikaha.

1. Christchurch



The Christchurch site works with people over 14 years of age who get support from the **Ministry of Education Ongoing Resourcing Scheme**.



The **Ministry of Education Ongoing Resourcing Scheme** is for disabled people who need lots of support at school.

2. Waikato



The Waikato site lets people join the service if they want to.

They can join the service if they meet some rules for disability support.

3. MidCentral



The MidCentral site is called Mana Whaikaha.

People who can get disability support can get their services.



Whaikaha has asked disabled people using the services at the demonstration sites what they think of them.



Disabled people have said they:

- can do things for themselves more
- feel better about themselves
- get to be with more people.



Enabling Good Lives

The Government agreed to putting Enabling Good Lives across the country in 2021.



Doing this change will:

- take a lot of time
- need support from the Government including money.



What does the Minister need to pay attention to now?



1. Response to UNCRPD

The Minister for Disability Issues went with a government group to the United Nations in 2022.



They took part in looking at how Aotearoa New Zealand was doing on disability rights.



The Government has agreed to do 51 of the 60 **recommendations** from the UNCRPD.



A **recommendation** is an idea about how something could be done better.



We are working with other people in Government on how this will be done.

2. Appointments to the NZSL Board



Here making an **appointment** means choosing someone for a job.



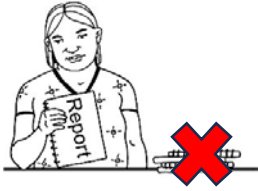
An important thing for you to do is make appointments to the NZSL Board.



These appointments must be approved by Cabinet / the Government.



Some people have left the NZSL Board.



Some people do not want to keep doing their jobs on the NZSL Board.



We have asked for people to put themselves forward for the jobs on the NZSL Board.



We will have people for you to think about for these jobs in early 2024.

3. Paid family carers



A paid family carer is a whānau / family member who is given money to support a disabled person.



This is done with an **employment agreement**.



Employment means getting paid for the work you do.

An **employment agreement** is the rules for that work.

The employment agreement can be made between:



- the disabled person

and

- the whānau / family member.



Another way the employment agreement can be made is by the disabled person asking a service provider to arrange the employment for the family member.



The **Employment Court** decided that Whaikaha is the employer of 2 paid family carers.



The **Employment Court** is where employment **disputes** are:

- listened to
- decided on.



Disputes means not agreeing about something important.



The **Court of Appeal** will decide soon if these family carers are employed by Whaikaha.



The **Court of Appeal** is where someone asks the court to change a decision made in the past.

4. High and Complex Framework



The High and Complex Framework is for people with intellectual disabilities who:

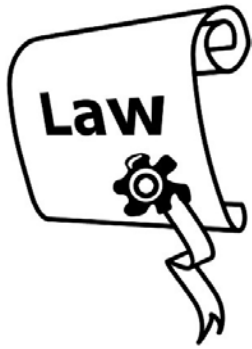
- are accused of a crime
- and
- need lots of support.



Whaikaha asks for services for these people using the High and Complex Framework.



The **legislation** for the High and Complex Framework belongs to Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health.



Legislation means the rules the Government has made about something.

Where to find more information



You can get in touch with Whaikaha on this **website**:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/contact-us/

You can also contact Whaikaha by:



- phone on:

0800 566 601

- text message on:

4206





Deaf

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



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.



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