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Transcript of a speech by the

Minister for Disability Issues:

Honourable Poto Williams



A person smiling for the camera

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**1 July 2022**

# About this document



This Easy Read document is a **transcript** of what the new **Minister for Disability Issues** said at the launch / start of **Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.**

**Transcript** means the words that the Minister said in her speech.

In this Easy Read document we have not changed or translated the words that were said.

A person smiling for the camera

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The new **Minister for Disability Issues** is:

Honourable Poto Williams.

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated**Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People** is a new part of the New Zealand Government that will:

* make disability support services better for disabled people and their whānau / families
* use an **Enabling Good Lives** way of doing things.

Logo

Description automatically generated**Enabling Good Lives** is a way of giving disability support so you have:

A picture containing diagram

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



Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People started on the 1 July 2022.

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with low confidenceYou can listen to the speech the Minister gave online at:

[**www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/welcome-from-our-new-minister**](https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/welcome-from-our-new-minister)

A picture containing text, electronics, computer, display

Description automatically generatedYou can also find more Easy Read information about Whaikaha **–** Ministry of Disabled People online at:

**Text

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These documents are in Easy Read.

# What the Minister said

A person smiling for the camera

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Kia ora koutou / hello

I am absolutely thrilled to be the Minister for Disability Issues.

A group of people posing for a photo

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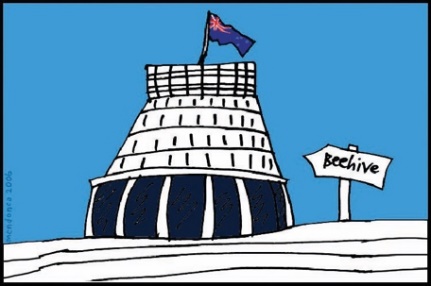
My recent appointment comes at a historic time for the disability community which has waited a long time for meaningful change.



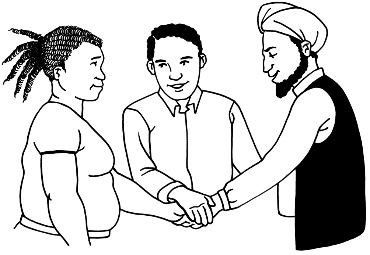
The launch of Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People – is a huge step toward a better, more independent, future for disabled people and their whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generatedI firmly believe disabled people must have more control over their lives and a big part of achieving that is improving how government support is provided.

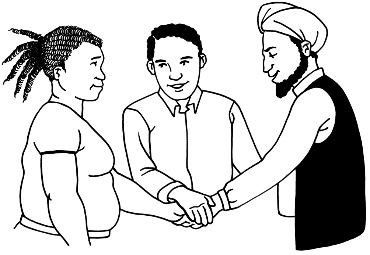


This Government has delivered a new Ministry with a mandate to do this.

But it will not be doing it alone.

Disabled people know best what is best for them.

That’s why I, along with the new Ministry, will be working closely with the disability community.

I strongly believe in the importance of working closely with community groups to achieve better outcomes for communities.



For too long the disability community has had decisions made for them without their say.



This Ministry will ensure disabled people have a real voice and increased self-determination.



The mantra **Nothing about Us, Without Us** will be part of its DNA / way of doing things.

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with low confidenceI am excited to be part of this journey.

It has been a long one but this is a true turning point and the road ahead is bright.

  
  
In the beautiful language of the Cook Islands:

* I E ra ke ia na Tiaure ei!
* It is a different day!

**Where to find more information**



You can find more information about Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People at this **website**:

[**www.whaikaha.govt.nz**](http://www.whaikaha.govt.nz)



You canalso:

**Call: 0800 566 601**

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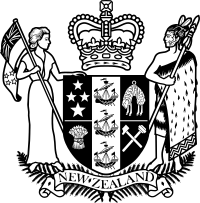
**Email:** [**contact@whaikaha.govt.nz**](mailto:contact@whaikaha.govt.nz)

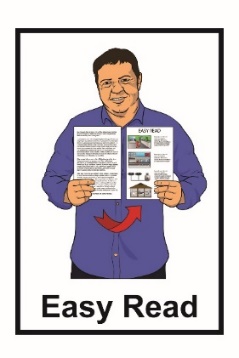
**Freepost: Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People**

**Reply No. 262204**

**PO Box 1556**

**Wellington**

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