

 **Whaikaha**
Ministry of Disabled People



Scan
for NZSL
name



Expression of Interest: Do you want to join a Disability Strategy Working Group?

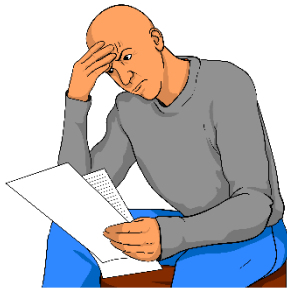


Published: February 2025

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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Whakataukī



A whakataukī is a Māori saying that shares an important message.



Kia hiwa rā kia hiwa rā

Kia kōkiri ake, kia mataara.

He karanga atu ki te ao whānui
ki te ao whaikaha.



Haere mai ōu whakaaro rangatira ki
tēnei kaupapa whakahirahira nau mai
e te iwi e.



Here are the English words of the whakataukī.



Be watchful, be alert.

Rise up, come forward



Be counted, be alert.

A call going out to the world, to the disabled world.



We welcome your chiefly thoughts to this important discussion.

We welcome all.

About this document



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



We call the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha the **Ministry** for short in this document.



When you see the words **we / us** in this document it means the Ministry.



The Ministry is **updating** the New Zealand Disability **Strategy** 2016 to 2026.



Updating means to look at something to see what needs to be done to make it better like:

- changing it
- adding something.



Here a **strategy** is a set of long term plans made to reach a goal.

In this document we call the New Zealand Disability Strategy the **Disability Strategy** for short.



The Disability Strategy is an important document.



It guides the work of government agencies about disability issues.

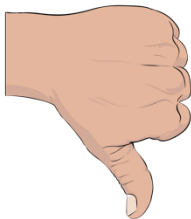


The Disability Strategy:

- was made nearly 10 years ago
- will be updated this year.



We need to find out what is happening for disabled people like the:



- things that are working for them
- things that are not working for them
- **barriers** stopping them living a good life.

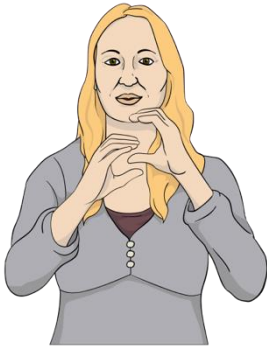


Barriers are things stopping disabled people being able to:

- take part in in their community
- do the things they want to do.



We want to hear what people who have lived experience of disability think.



To find out what work needs to be done we will work with:

- disabled people
- the Deaf community
- Turi Māori / Deaf Māori
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori
- whānau hauā / family who are disabled
- Pacific peoples
- whānau / families.





You can find more about the
Disability Strategy on **page 11** of this
document.

What is the Disability Strategy?



The Disability Strategy guides the work government agencies do to make life better for disabled people.



The Disability Strategy should:

- support disabled New Zealanders to live better lives
- follow what the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says to make sure disabled New Zealanders are getting their rights.





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

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

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

The Aotearoa New Zealand Government said that we agree with the UNCRPD in 2008.



Rights are things that everyone should have to be able to live a good life like:

- having a safe place to live
- being kept safe
- getting the services they need.



Government agencies follow the Disability Strategy to support disabled people to get their rights.



There is still a lot of work to do in Aotearoa New Zealand to make sure disabled people can live good lives.



Disabled people face many barriers stopping them being able to live a good life here in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The new Disability Strategy will support work to take away these barriers.



You can find out more information about the Disability Strategy at our **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/4rwbv4f8>



Some of this information is in Easy Read.

Why are we updating the Disability Strategy?



The new Disability Strategy will say what work needs to be done to make sure Aotearoa New Zealand is following what the UNCRPD says.



It will also follow what the Pae Ora Healthy Futures Act **law** says.



A **law** is a rule made by the government that everyone has to follow.



The Disability Strategy will have a set of **outcome** areas to support its work.



Here an **outcome** is the work needed to reach a planned goal for a job.

The main outcome areas will work to:

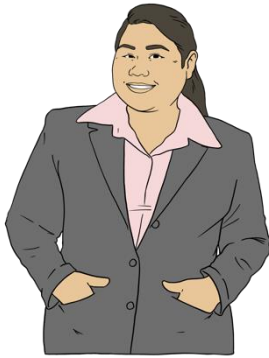


- change things to make life better for disabled people
- take away barriers disabled people face a lot.

We will work to update the Disability Strategy with people:

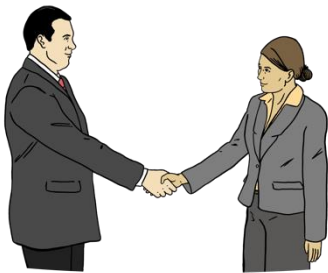


- in the disability community
- in the business community
- who work in **industry**
- who are interested in disability rights.



Here **industry** is a group of businesses that:

- make or sell similar things
- provide similar services.



The Minister for Disability Issues will have to agree to the new Disability Strategy when it is finished.

What is a Working Group?



We think there will be 5 main outcome areas in the new Disability Strategy.



We will make a Working Group to work on each outcome area.



These 5 outcome areas will fit in with the work the Government has planned for public services like:



- health

- education



- **employment**

- housing



- **justice.**



Here **employment** means things to do with jobs.



Here **justice** is to do with people being treated fairly by the justice system like the courts.



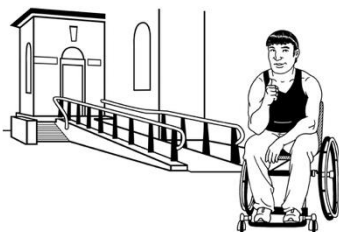
We will also think about 3 things when we are working on each outcome area like:

- **accessibility**
- **data**
- **equity.**



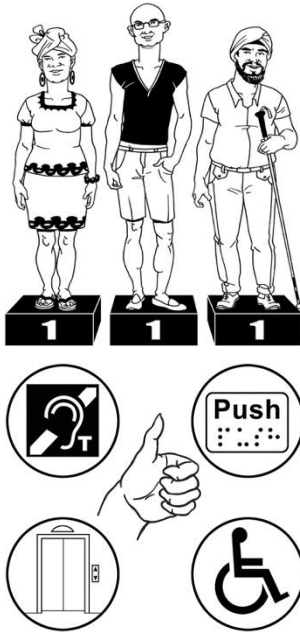
Here **accessibility** is about disabled people being able to:

- use something
- do something.





Here **data** is information that is collected to support making decisions about the work to be done in each outcome area.

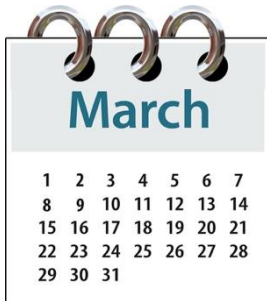


Equity means an understanding that every person:

- is different
- may sometimes need different support to be able to do the same things as others.



Cabinet will decide if we have chosen the right outcome areas to have in the new Disability Strategy.



Here **Cabinet:**

- is a group of senior government ministers
- meets to make important decisions.

Cabinet will talk about this when they meet in March this year.

The 5 Working Groups will support the work to make the new Disability Strategy.

We think the main work will happen between:

- March 2025
- and
- November 2025.

Who will be in each Working Group?



Each Working Group will be made up of 3 people with lived experience of disability like:

- disabled people
- people in the Deaf community
- Turi Māori – Deaf Māori
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori
- whānau hauā / family who are disabled
- Pacific people
- whānau / family of disabled people.



Each working group will also have:

- 2 people who work for the government
- up to 2 **experts** from the outcome area who work in:
 - business
 - industry.

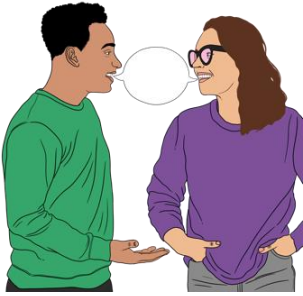


An **expert** is a person that knows a lot about something.



Some people who work at Whaikaha will support the Working Groups.

What skills should a Working Group member have?



Working Group members should be good at:

- sharing their experiences about disability
- seeing how the work they are doing can work with other disability rights work
- working with:
 - government agencies
 - people in their Working Group
 - business / industry groups
 - different communities.





Working Group members should also be good at working with government workers.



If you want to be on a Working Group you should know a lot about an outcome area like:



- health
- education
- employment
- housing
- justice.





To be on a Working Group you should also be good at:

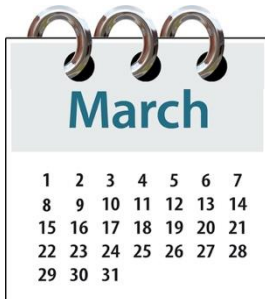
- thinking up plans to get work done
- thinking about different ways to find answers to problems
- making decisions.
- taking part in discussions
- working with other people
- getting your work done in the time that you are asked to do it.



How much time will it take?



Working Group members will have to go to the Working Group meetings.



This will take about 50 hours between:

- March 2025

and

- November 2025.



Working group members will also have to meet with communities to support their work.



We think these meetings will take about 40 hours.

Do Working Group members get paid?



Working Group members will get paid 60 dollars an hour.



You will be paid for things like:

- time to get ready for each meeting
- going to the Working Group meetings
- having meetings with different communities.



We will give you a **reasonable accommodation** if you need it.

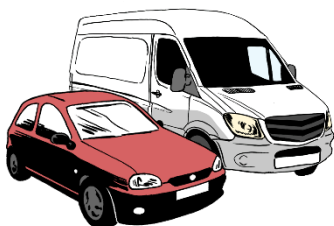


A **reasonable accommodation** is making changes to something so disabled people can do things like:

- work
- get information
- use services
- get to where they want to go.



We will pay for all your travel costs when you go to a meeting like:



- fares for:
 - bus
 - train
 - taxi
- petrol
- parking.

Questions



1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure




You have to fill out an **Expression of Interest** form if you want to be on a Working Group.

Expression of interest means saying that you are interested in taking part in something.



The Ministry will:

- look at all of the information you give us

and

- decide if you have the rights skills to be on a Working Group.



Find out how to tell us you want to be a Working Group Member on **pages 31 to 35**.

How to tell us you want to be a Working Group Member



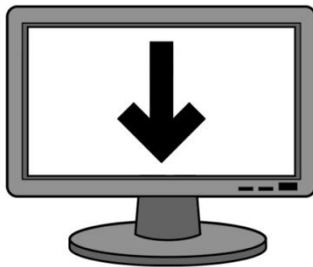
You will have to fill out an Expression of Interest form if you would like to be on a Working Group.



We will ask for more information about:

- you
- your experience.





You can send us an email if you want:

- an Expression of Interest form
- to ask us questions about the Working Groups.

Email us at:

disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz

You can also download the Easy Read form from our **website** at:

whaikaha.govt.nz/strategy-refresh



You can send your form by **email** at:

disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz

You can post your form to us.



You do not have to put a stamp on the envelope.



You can **post** your form to:

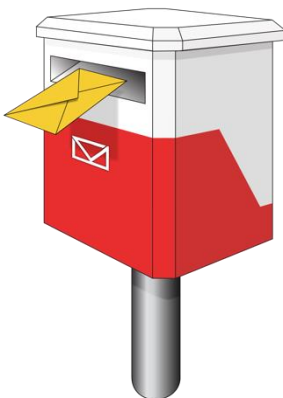
**Partnerships and Stewardships
Group**

**Ministry of Disabled People –
Whaikaha**

Reply paid: 262204

PO Box 1556

Wellington 6140





You can also send your Expression of Interest by:

- video
- using an alternate format like:
 - Braille
 - New Zealand Sign Language
 - te reo Māori
 - audio
 - Large Print.



To find out about making your expression of interest in a different way you can **email** us at:

disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz



You need to send your Expression of Interest back to us by **6 March 2025**.

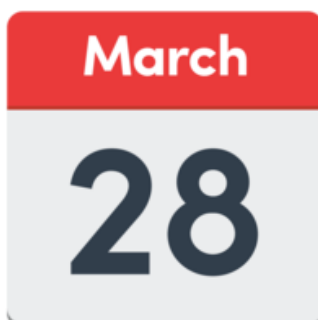


We will decide who will be on our Working Groups.



By **21 March 2025** we will tell you if you:

- **are** on the Working Group
- or
- **are not** on the Working Group.



We hope to have made the Working Groups by **28 March 2025**.



This information has been written by 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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