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Whaikaha
Ministry of Disabled People



Call for Expressions of Interest to join:

Working Groups

for the Refresh of the New Zealand Disability Strategy

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.**

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.

The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha (the Ministry) is updating the current New Zealand Disability Strategy (2016-2026) – which you can find here: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/programmes-strategies-and-studies/programmes-and-strategies/new-zealand-disability-strategy> or here <https://tinyurl.com/4rwbv4f8>. With the current Disability Strategy almost 10 years old, it is time to do a refresh.

We are seeking the voices and experiences of disabled people, Deaf, tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau hauā, Turi Māori, Pacific people and families to be a part of working groups that will influence and inform the refresh of the New Zealand Disability Strategy. We are a diverse nation, your experiences, your voice is needed.

During 2025 the government will engage with the disability community (disabled people and family, tāngata whaikaha Māori and their whānau) in a range of ways to update the NZ Disability Strategy.

Why are we doing a NZ Disability Strategy refresh?

The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 -2026 (the Strategy) is a government strategy under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022

The Strategy guides the work of government agencies on disability issues. It represents New Zealand's approach to the progressive realisation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Strategy outlines key outcome areas where societal change is required to reduce barriers for disabled people, **families, Deaf People, Pacific People, tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau hauā, and Turi Māori.**

This year, government agencies will work with the disability community, industry/business representatives and the wider community to create a new Disability Strategy. The Minister for Disability Issues will approve the final strategy.

Working Groups: What are they and how can I become a member?

It is likely that the updated Strategy will have five key outcome areas, aligned to the Government's nine targets for public services: Health, Education, Employment, Housing and Justice. These outcome areas are due to be considered by Cabinet in March. Cross cutting considerations are likely to include accessibility, data and equity.

The Ministry is preparing to set-up 5 Working Groups – one for each outcome area, to support the development of the new Strategy.

The key working period for Working Groups will be between March and November 2025.

Who will be in the Working Groups?

Each Working Group will be made up of:

- 3 people with lived experience of disability (including disabled people, families, Deaf people, Pacific People and tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau hauā, Turi Māori)
- 2 cross-agency government officials
- Up to 2 industry/sector experts (from the 5 key outcome areas)
- Whaikaha Ministry officials will support the Working Groups.

What is expected of me?

Members will:

- Provide lived experience, expertise, knowledge and leadership to inform strategic choices and to identify tangible actions to achieve change.
- Identify linkages with relevant projects, industry groups and subject matter experts.
- Engage with government agencies, industry groups and the disability community, (including disabled people, families, Deaf people, Pacific People and tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau hauā, Turi Māori).
- Support the review of and contribute to relevant policy papers.
- Work collaboratively across all Working Groups and with government officials tasked with producing the new Strategy.

What kind of skills are needed?

Community members on Working Groups should have:

- Lived experience of disability, Deaf, tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau hauā and/or Turi Māori
- Expertise in a relevant outcome area – health, education, employment, housing or justice.
- Strategic, analytical and decision-making experience.
- An ability to contribute to robust discussions and an active willingness to reach pragmatic solutions.
- A commitment to working co-operatively to develop actions.
- An ability to communicate effectively with the disability communities including managing their expectations.
- An ability to work to tight deadlines.

The Ministry will appoint Working Group members based on selection criteria and using a Panel approach.

What is the time commitment, and will I be paid?

- Community members will commit approximately 50 hours between March and November to attend Working Group meetings.
- In addition to meetings, members are expected to regularly connect with their communities and may be asked to participate in engagement with the broader disability community. An additional 40 hours is estimated for this.
- Remuneration arrangements for preparation and meeting attendance, and community engagement, will be based on \$60 per hour.

- Reasonable accommodations will be provided as necessary.
- Any costs associated with travel to attend in person meetings will be covered by the Ministry.

If you are interested please

Email: disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz

for an Expression of Interest Form or download from [our website](#).

Please feel free to ask any questions using this email address.

The Expression of Interest form includes additional information, such as key selection criteria. You can choose to send in your expression of interest via video or in other alternate formats.

Please return the form to us before the close-off date.

- **Email: disabilitystrategy@whaikaha.govt.nz**
- **Post (Whaikaha uses Reply Paid [Freepost], so you can post information without a stamp.):**
Partnerships and Stewardship Group.
Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha
Reply Paid: 262204.
PO Box 1556.
Wellington 6140

Expressions of Interest are due 6 March 2025

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 21 March 2025

We hope to finalise appointments by 28 March 2025.