# Summary of meeting

# Disability Data and Evidence Working Group

**Date:** 4 March 2016 **Time:** 9.00am – 2.30pm

**Venue:** Statistics House, The Boulevard, Harbour Quays, Wellington

**Attendees:** *Government agencies*

* Statistics New Zealand: Diane Ramsay (Chair), Litia Tapu, Phillipa O’Brien, and Elodie Green
* Office for Disability Issues: Megan McCoy, Catherine Brennan
* ACC: Raymond Burr
* Ministry of Education: Clare Shepherd
* Ministry of Health: Christopher Carroll
* Ministry of Justice: Patrick Power
* Ministry of Social Development: Anne Hawker
* Ministry of Transport: Jennifer McSaveney
* Human Rights Commission: Paul Gibson (morning only)

*New Zealand Disability Support Network*

* Sam Murray (CCS Disability Action)

*Universities*

* Brigit Mirfin-Veitch (University of Otago and Donald Beasley Institute)

**Apologies:**

* Jonathan Godfrey (Disabled People’s Organisations)
* Paul Gibson (afternoon only)

# Welcome and introductions:

Diane Ramsay (Chair) welcomed members of the Disability Data and Evidence Working Group (DDEWG) to the fourth meeting.

Raymond Burr replaced Julie Shipton-Pasgaard (ACC) for this meeting.

# Issues arising from previous meeting summary:

Discussion had arisen around whether the original or updated version of the stocktake document should be published on the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) website. The decision was that the updated version, including information from government agencies only, should be published.

# Updates from Working Group members:

Megan McCoy (ODI)

* A revision of the New Zealand Disability Strategy is now underway. Public consultation will take place over the next few months and ODI will update the Working Group on progress. ODI will discuss stakeholder engagement with Statistics NZ to ensure coordination.
* It was noted that the monitoring framework for the Strategy will likely require improvements to collection of administrative data, and that decisions on priorities within this would be for the Government to make.
* Megan acknowledged the work of Statistics NZ in introducing the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability (WGSS) into the General Social Survey (GSS).

Diane Ramsay (Statistics New Zealand)

* An action point from the previous meeting was for the DDEWG to send a letter to Statistics NZ supporting the inclusion of the WGSS in the 2018 Census. Census team is currently testing the WGSS, however, the final decision on inclusion in the Census will not be made until 2017.
* The WGSS will be run in the next GSS which will be in the field shortly. Statistics NZ is currently investigating ways to introduce the WGSS into the Household Labour Force Survey.
* The Sustainable Development Goals have approximately 230 indicators which are being worked through. The Government Statistician and the Deputy Statistician are in New York for discussions. It is considered desirable that all indicators be disaggregated by disability status, as for other demographic characteristics. This disaggregation is aspirational for most countries.

Anne Hawker (Ministry of Social Development)

* The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) undertook an anonymous survey of staff which contained the WGSS questions, with an additional question about mental health/psychosocial impairments. MSD would like to work with ODI and Statistics NZ to run this survey again in November 2016. The State Services Commission is also looking at running a similar workforce survey.
* MSD will be launching a Disability Toolkit to assist in employment of disabled people in the public service. It will include published documents, a DVD and an online website.

Paul Gibson (Human Rights Commission)

* Paul Gibson met with the Minister of Finance (Bill English) on 1 March 2016 to follow-up on the Productivity Commission’s report. One of the issues raised was a recent report by Treasury which did not include any information on disabled people. It was suggested by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to Minister English that Treasury should be represented on the DDEWG. This would be a way of increasing Treasury’s understanding and use of information on disabled people.
* HRC emphasised that broader ownership of the Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 and the New Zealand Disability Strategy across government was called for.

# Stocktake

An updated version of the disability data stocktake informed the discussion.

Since the last meeting information has been gathered from additional government agencies and some service providers.

Discussion covered the scope of the exercise and whether the process used was appropriate beyond government agencies. It was concluded that the questionnaire and language used for government agencies do not work well for organisations outside government. Hence, a different process and questions are required. The government agency information, already collected, will be prepared for publication and released on the DDEWG webpage.

ODI will lead work on a separate stocktake addressing other evidence from, for example, Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs), service providers, non-government agencies and universities. A new questionnaire and process will be developed for this. It was suggested that an Australian example might provide useful insights (see action points). The monitoring framework for the revised New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS) will inform how regularly the stocktake information will be monitored and updated. The DDEWG could provide advice on this issue.

Further data sources for the stocktake were discussed including the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Ministry of Education (MoE). MoE will be submitting some more information for the stocktake and asked that a copy of the questionnaire be sent to them.

ODI confirmed that the Information Assignment that was, initially, going to be contracted out, will now be undertaken by them.

# International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF) and conceptual frameworks

Two documents were sent out prior to the meeting to inform discussion on the ICF:

* [The ICF: An overview](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf)
* [Towards a common language for functioning, disability and health – ICF](http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/training/icfbeginnersguide.pdf)

A range of views on the ICF and disability frameworks were raised. This included discussion of the identity component of disability and the social model. Noted that the social model has greater acceptance and understanding amongst disabled people.

MSD commented on the benefits and difficulties involved in using the ICF framework. ACC noted that the use of the ICF has helped to broaden understanding of what they needed to know about in supporting disabled people.

ODI will prepare a paper for the DDEWG on how the ICF could be used to support connecting and integrating datasets. This will include how concerns within the disability sector on the ICF could be mitigated.

Noted that the ICF conceptual framework was mostly used in academic research on rehabilitation in New Zealand. The ICF classification component is not widely used due to the complexity of applying it. Conceptual framework and shared terminology are the most commonly used parts of the ICF.

# A process for establishing enduring questions discussion paper

The DDEWG had a general discussion about stakeholders that should be engaged with for the development of enduring questions. For example, need to engage with The Treasury and local government (starting with Local Government New Zealand), Household NZ.

Megan discussed the targeted consultation that ODI has been preparing for the New Zealand Disability Strategy review. ODI’s process will be established over the coming weeks. The review of the Disability Strategy will include stakeholder consultation – care will be taken to ensure there is not clash or overlap of stakeholder engagement between the Disability Strategy and the process of formulating enduring questions.

ODI and Statistics NZ will develop an initial stakeholder engagement/communication plan for the next DDEWG meeting.

ODI will discuss the enduring questions process with Jonathan Godfrey (representing DPOs) before engaging with DPOs in early March.

A workshop to refine the areas of interest and draft an initial set of enduring questions will be held. This will take place before the next DDEWG meeting, the date of which is yet to be confirmed.

Current planned process:

1. Develop stakeholder engagement plan and communication plan.
2. DDEWG workshop: refine topics and draft an initial set of enduring questions.
3. Engage with stakeholders (policy teams, service providers, DPOs, etc.) to identify recurrent policy issues and input into enduring questions.

# Enduring questions in the disability domain

A discussion paper from Statistics NZ provided initial thoughts on enduring questions based on an understanding gained from the NZ Disability Survey. Additional topics, conceptual understandings and use of language were discussed.

Human rights/civic topics were thought to be not visible enough in the questions. Members of the DDEWG were asked to reflect on the topics and questions in preparation for the workshop.

# Action points and next steps

1. Statistics NZ to send stocktake questionnaire to MoE.
2. Statistics NZ to prepare the stocktake of government agency datasets for publication, including a tidy up of contact details. ODI to publish this on the webpage after DDEWG approval.
3. ODI will lead work on a stocktake for other evidence from universities, disability sector organisations and DPOs.
4. Follow up with organisations about stocktake responses. ODI will follow up MBIE.
5. ODI will consider the role of the ICF for DDEWG and prepare a paper for next meeting.
6. A plan for capacity building around the ICF will come from ODI.
7. ODI and Statistics NZ to produce stakeholder engagement plan for next meeting.
8. Megan will discuss enduring questions work with Jonathan Godfrey for DPOs’ engagement.
9. The enduring questions workshop will be held after Easter, before the next meeting. (Date TBC)
10. The next DDEWG meeting will be chaired by ODI, date to be confirmed.