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| Report | |  | | |
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| Date: | 28 August 2020 | |  |  |
| To: | Disability Data and Evidence Working Group, | | | |

## Workstream 1 - Key messages

### Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to get agreement to both the attached report and process for delivering the attached messages.

### Key Messages

1. The collection of data and evidence is important for policy and service development within government agencies. Disability as a population drives policy and then practice. It is true to say that if you aren’t counted, that you don’t count.
2. Disability for an individual modifies practice at the implementation level and needs to be supported by the right policy framework. If there is no policy to help identify disability for any individuals receiving services, then there is only ad hoc human thoughtfulness in play. That leaves adequate consideration of every individual’s needs down to chance.
3. Disabled people are a significant population group, representing 24% of the population on whom little data has been collected. Until now, information regarding disabled people has not been requested. Further, it is fair to say that there was never a consistent way of measuring disability.
4. This is about to change. The Disability Data and Evidence Working Group is calling on each agency to:

* Commit to the collection of Disability Data and Evidence, including in an emergency such as a pandemic, earthquake, flood or fires.
* Share the findings and outcomes of disability data and evidence activities widely and in a range of forms, ensuring accessible formats are available.
* Report at six-month intervals on data and evidence collection and use. This will build on the six-monthly reporting that you are already doing for the Lead Toolkit and Accessibility Charter.
* Include the collection of disability and evidence as part of everything that you do. There may be times when you want specific data, however most of the data and evidence should be collected when you collect information around any of your services or policies. The information collected refers to both qualitative and quantitative data.
* Ensure every data collection exercise is accessible and complies with WCAG 2.1 AA.
* Use as a minimum the Washington Short Set of questions. Where an agency decides not to use the Washington Questions – short or extended, they will need to provide an explanation in their six-monthly report.
* Ensure that if demographic categorisation is done, there is a proven need not to have disability status indicators; each data collection exercise can be addressed on a case by case basis
* Require external agencies contracted to collect data and evidence to include and adhere to the above factors in the procurement documentation.

1. The underlying tenet is no agency can contract out of its obligations to provide disability data and evidence.
2. The expectation is that an agency will undertake regular incremental improvements, not some sort of monumental overnight overhaul. And once disability status is place in any data collection exercise, it should remain.
3. To help you with your journey to provide Disability Data and Evidence, resources and training will be provided. Information on these are available through xxxxxx

### Process for dissemination of the key message

1. The first step in disseminating the key messages is to get agreement from the DDEWG at their September meeting to both the messages and the process of dissemination.

It is important to note that the key messages should be referenced by all streams when developing their activity.

1. The messages should be included in the report to Papa Pounamu, the CEs’ leadership team on Diversity and Inclusion as part of the report to them after the September DDEWG meeting. Debbie Power, CE of MSD is the owner of the Disability Pou and it is her responsibility to report on progress in this area.
2. Secondly, the messages would be included in the six-monthly report to the incoming Minister for Disability issues. The report will also include a section on how we will disseminate the information to CEs, the questions that will be included in the next report and our expectations of agencies.
3. Thirdly, a letter will be sent to the CEs with an outline of the key messages and the expectation that they appoint a member of the Leadership Team to be a sponsor, have a data champion and develop a time framed and resourced action plan. The CEs along with the Leadership Team sponsor would sign the letter and send a copy of the signed letter back to MSD.
4. Progress on these actions would be reported in the February report to the Minister for Disability issues with copies to Papa Pounamu, DPOs and DDEWG.

### Next steps

1. That the September meeting of the DDEWG sign off the key messages and process.
2. That a report be written to Papa Pounamu informing them of the action.
3. That Debbie Power as CE of MSD sends out the letter to the 40 CEs in the Public sector by the end of October.