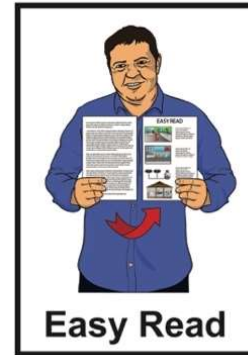


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# **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: What the New Zealand Government wants to do**



**Published: August 2023**

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# What is this document about?



This Easy Read document is a **summary** of a **Cabinet paper** that went to the **Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee**.



## A summary:

- is shorter than the full document
- tells you the main ideas.



## Cabinet:

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



A **Cabinet paper** has information in it that Cabinet needs to:

- know about
- make a decision about.



The **Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee** is a group of government ministers who work on things to do with social wellbeing.



**Social wellbeing** is about making sure everyone has a good quality of life.

# What is the Cabinet paper about?



In 2008 the New Zealand Government said they agree with the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a group of rules that lots of countries have agreed to.

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



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



You can find more Easy Read information about the UNCRPD on this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddwdxue>



The **United Nations Committee** is an **independent** group of 18 **experts** on disability rights from around the world.



The **United Nations Committee** looks closely at how governments are doing with making sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



**Independent** means the experts are not part of any governments.



**Experts** are people who know a lot about something.



The United Nations Committee met with the New Zealand Government in 2022 to look at how they were doing.



The United Nations Committee wrote a report that listed 60 **concluding observations** for the New Zealand Government to work on.



**Concluding observations** are the things that New Zealand needs to do better at.



The concluding observations are **recommendations** for things that New Zealand could do.

**Recommendations** are things that could be done to make things better.



These concluding observations were about things like:

- **disability support services**
- **accessibility**
- **welfare**
- **the health system**
- support for tāngata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori.

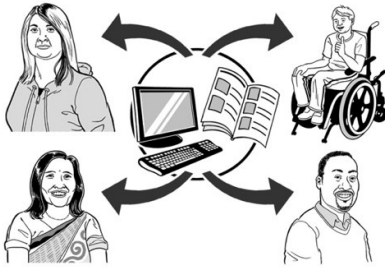


**Disability support services** include many services such as:

- Enabling Good Lives
- residential care support
- carer support.







**Accessibility** means making it easy for everyone to:

- find the things / information they need
- use the things / information they need
- get around in ways they want to
- communicate with other people.

**Welfare** is about things like:

- a good place to live
- support with money / costs
- having a job / work.



**The health system** is about getting good healthcare from places like:

- hospitals
- community health centres
- dentists
- mental health services.

# What are the main recommendations in the Cabinet paper?



The Cabinet paper asks the Social Wellbeing Committee to agree to work on all 60 observations.

1 of the ways of doing this is to keep working on the things outlined in the Disability Action Plan 2019 – 2023.



You can find Easy Read information about the Disability Action Plan 2019 – 2023 on this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/2pfpxtj2>



The Cabinet paper also asks that a **domestic forum** is held by December 2027.



A **domestic forum** is a:

- meeting where lots of people can take part
- way of checking with disabled people about how they think New Zealand is doing with meeting the things in the UNCRPD.



Disabled people would be able to say:

- what is working
- what is not working.



The Minister for Disability Issues is Priyanca Radhakrishnan.

The Minister says that doing these things will show that New Zealand:



- is a leader in working to make sure that disabled people get their rights
- understands it is important for people to have their say including:



- tāngata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori
- disabled people
- whānau / families
- the wider community.





It also shows the importance of the **Independent Monitoring Mechanism** group.



The **Independent Monitoring Mechanism** group looks at what the Government is doing to make sure disabled people are getting their rights in New Zealand.



There are 3 groups that make up the **Independent Monitoring Mechanism**:



- Office of the Ombudsman
- New Zealand Human Rights Commission
- Disabled People's Organisations Coalition / DPO Coalition.





Blind Citizens NZ



Disabled Persons Assembly nz



Muscular Dystrophy  
New Zealand

People First NZ   
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

The Disabled People's Organisations that belong to the DPO Coalition are:

- Balance Aotearoa
- Blind Citizens New Zealand
- Deaf Aotearoa
- Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand
- Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand
- People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The United Nations Committee will next meet with the New Zealand Government no later than October 2030.

# How does this Cabinet paper fit with other Government work?



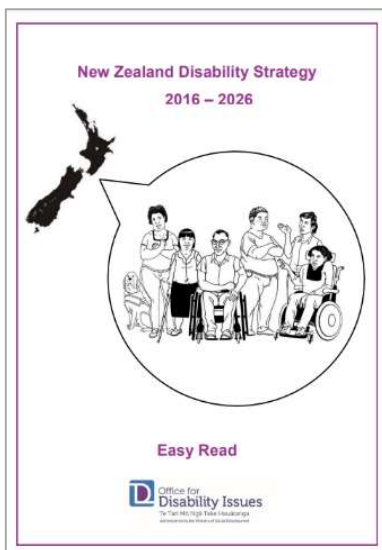
The recommendations in this Cabinet paper fit with the things that are said in the:

- **New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 – 2026**
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.**



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** outlines what the

Government will do to make sure disabled people get their rights.



You can find the New Zealand Disability Strategy in Easy Read at this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/cuecp5tf>





**Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi** is an important agreement between Māori and the British Crown.



It is about Māori and the New Zealand Government:

- making decisions together
- protecting things that are important to Māori.



# Where to find more information



You can find more information about the recommendations made in the Cabinet paper on the Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People **website**:



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



You can contact Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People by:

- **email at:**

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

- **phone on:**

**0800 566 601**

- **text on: 4206**





This information has been written by Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



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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