



Briefing to the incoming Minister

Achieving inclusion and independence for disabled New Zealanders



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

Office for **Disability issues**

Te Tari Mō Ngā Take Hauātanga
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

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Executive summary

Compared with many countries, New Zealand has done a lot to ensure that disabled people are able to fully participate in and contribute to society. However, as we recognised in our first report on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations Convention) in 2011, we know that we still have a way to go before we can say disabled people are fully included in society.

The five-yearly post-censal Disability Surveys, our best source of data, show that disabled New Zealanders are still doing less well than other New Zealanders on every key indicator of wellbeing. They highlight that some disabled New Zealanders face multiple disadvantages throughout their lives.

Disabled people share every New Zealander's expectation of getting a 'fair go' so they can make a good life for themselves and for those who depend on them. But some disabled people do not enjoy a 'fair go' and do not get the chance to lead ordinary lives. They experience barriers to equal opportunity, which can reinforce atypical lives (such as not being expected to work or contribute to society, or living their lives in segregated settings).

As Minister for Disability Issues, you have a leadership role in activating the Government to remove these barriers so that disabled people can have greater independence and the same choices and control over their lives as others. Your key vehicles for doing this are the New Zealand Disability Strategy (which is required by legislation) and the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues' Disability Action Plan.

The Office for Disability Issues was formed in 2002 to assist the Minister for Disability Issues with their leadership role. While it sits within the Ministry of Social Development, the Office for Disability Issues promotes action across government and, on your behalf, monitors implementation and progress. In this way you can provide the necessary cross-government leadership and hold departments to account.

While there are many issues affecting disabled people, the Government needs to focus on setting priorities that make the most difference. Employment has been identified as the top-most priority for working-age disabled people. Work opens the door to greater participation and inclusion, and it leads to attitude change among co-workers and other people in the community. Welfare reform is just one part of what is needed to improve the employment prospects of disabled people: making the education system more responsive, promoting more positive attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people, and improving access to communication, information, transport and the built environment will all contribute to getting more disabled people into jobs.

Opportunities are everywhere – including in the devastation brought about by the Canterbury earthquakes. We must ensure the rebuild provides a place that is accessible and welcoming to all, as it should be throughout New Zealand.

PART

1

The current situation

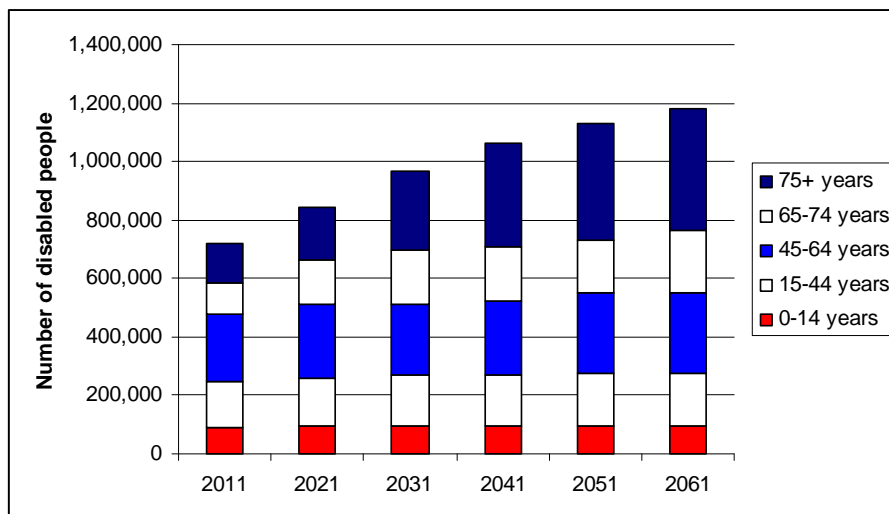
Disabled people represent a large proportion of the New Zealand population

In 2006, there were 660,300 New Zealanders, or 17 per cent of the total population, that had some kind of long-lasting physical, sensory, mental or other functional impairment that limited their ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal. The impairment may have been with a person since birth, been acquired from illness or accident, or have developed as a person moves into older age. If an assistive device (such as spectacles) completely eliminates a person's limitation, then they are not counted as a disabled person.¹

The ageing population means more disabled people

Currently, the biggest group of disabled people is of working age. Over the next 50 years the disabled population is estimated to grow to 1.2 million people, or 21 per cent of the total population.² This is because the number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase and as people get older it is more likely they will have some kind of impairment.³

Figure 1: Projected number of disabled New Zealanders 2011-2061



The increasing rate of chronic diseases also contributes

New Zealand has an increasing rate of non-communicable chronic diseases, such as stroke, heart and respiratory disease, obesity, and diabetes, which cause early death or long-term impairment. The rates tend to be higher for Māori and Pacific people. Looking at the impact of stroke, for example, there are currently 58,000 people living with a stroke, two-thirds of whom need support with daily living. Around 8,000 new people have a stroke each year.⁴

Disabled people are a diverse population group

Disabled people cannot be treated as a homogeneous group. There is a wide range of voices and perspectives, typically based on impairment type. In addition, there are the voices of families, who have their own legitimate concerns, and support providers, who tend to focus on an impairment type (eg older people or people with mental illness) and/or on a particular aspect of life (eg residential care or employment).

Many government agencies fund disability supports

Disability supports are products, services and arrangements that help people carry out the activities of daily life, which may be provided for rehabilitation, educational, vocational or more general participation and independence goals. Ten government agencies, including ACC, fund disability supports. The best estimate of the total cost of government-funded disability support services is for 2005/2006. That year, services costing over \$3 billion were accessed by more than 400,000 people. This cost excluded income support but included Disability Allowance.⁵

There have been increases in some funding for disability supports, but the total increases are unknown because departments do not necessarily categorise those receiving services as having an impairment or not.

The various programmes of government-funded support have come about at different times and for different purposes. They do not always make up a coherent package of supports. Their eligibility criteria produce unequal treatment, based on impairment, and also gaps through which some people fall.

New Zealand implements world best practice

The United Nations Convention sets out best practice for designing policy impacting on disabled people. New Zealand ratified it in 2008 and is required to implement its obligations in all areas of life and for all ages. We must report every four years on implementation.

Our first four-yearly report was published in March 2011. It is expected that our report will be examined sometime from 2013. The opportunity exists for you to lead the New Zealand delegation to the United Nations for the examination.

Domestic framework for change

Since 2001 the New Zealand Disability Strategy has promoted a framework for changing our society to be inclusive and enabling of disabled people. It communicated a new way of thinking about disabled people that was very different from what had gone before.

This modern approach centres on disabled people living an everyday life on an equal basis with others. Anyone wanting to work, learn, have fun and otherwise participate in their community needs to be able to move around,

access businesses, services and information, make decisions, and communicate. However, for some people, their impairments, together with such factors as the design of the physical environment and the way services and information are provided, create barriers that limit their participation. People with impairments become disabled when facing these barriers.

Disabled people highly value and feel strong ownership of the New Zealand Disability Strategy, owing to the way it was developed that involved people around the country, and its vision of inclusion and equal participation in society.

Having a disability strategy is required by the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000, which also obligates the Minister for Disability Issues to report annually to Parliament on progress with implementation.

Leading cross-government action on disability issues

As Minister for Disability Issues, you chair the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues, which comprises your ministerial colleagues from portfolios that have the most impact on disabled people. There are usually three meetings a year.

Cabinet established the Ministerial Committee in 2009 to provide greater leadership and accountability across government. The Ministerial Committee's terms of reference allow it to:

- set work priorities across government
- identify areas of poor performance
- develop accountability arrangements
- identify more efficient use of government resources
- provide input as appropriate to significant policy reviews to ensure the needs of disabled people are considered.

It is supported by the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues, which is chaired by Brendan Boyle, Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development.

Setting priorities for government agencies

In 2011 Cabinet approved the first Disability Action Plan, to provide clearer and consistent direction to government agencies where Ministers expected action to be advanced. It emphasises cross-government collaboration because the disability sector has said that problems often occur when disabled people's needs fall in between agencies' responsibility.

Independent monitoring has been strengthened

In 2010 Cabinet recognised the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsmen, and the Convention Coalition⁶ as independent monitors of government implementation of the United Nations Convention. They meet annually with the Ministerial Committee.

In October 2011 the Minister of Justice introduced to Parliament a Human Rights Act Amendment Bill that changes the Human Rights Commission's

governance arrangements, including a provision for a full-time Commissioner dedicated to disability issues. As an interim arrangement, Paul Gibson was appointed on 26 September 2011, on a part-time basis for 18 months.

PART

2

Current challenges

Limited agreement on how to progress achieving an inclusive society

There has been no common agreement within government, the disability sector or wider society on what will make the most difference in disabled people's lives. This is despite widespread support for the New Zealand Disability Strategy's vision. Different sectors have developed different plans over time, but none of them have been consistently implemented.

As a result, government agencies have been asked to implement and report against an increasing range of disability policy obligations. For example, as well as the New Zealand Disability Strategy, in recent years we have responded to reporting on the United Nations Convention, the New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006, and the *Government Response to the Social Services Select Committee Inquiry into the Quality of Care and Service Provision for People with Disabilities*, as well as others on specific issues or impairment groups.

The Ministerial Committee developed the Disability Action Plan to communicate its top priorities for government agencies. However, the Disability Action Plan has not been mandated to overtake, complement or simplify the Government's commitment to other competing plans.

The first Disability Action Plan focused on areas of life that disabled people have said need the most attention by government:

- getting more disabled people into jobs
- improving how disabled people can move around and access buildings and information
- making disability supports more flexible and responsive.

There are many issues affecting disabled people. It can be difficult for government agencies to know which issues should be prioritised or which group of people with impairments have the greater need.

A related challenge in reporting on progress is the lack of good information on disabled people's life outcomes and getting meaningful data from government agencies on whether their actions are making a real difference. Data collection and analysis can take time to establish. A clear and certain direction will enable better decisions on what data is needed.

Cross-government leadership is still developing

The Ministerial Committee's effectiveness in providing leadership and accountability across government is still developing. Since its first meeting in May 2009, there has been some progress in promoting the relevance of disability issues among Ministers. A problem Ministers grapple with is the cross-cutting nature of issues affecting disabled people, which do not neatly fit within any one portfolio or department.

Disabled people experience poor life outcomes

The Disability Surveys of 1996, 2001 and 2006 consistently show poorer life results for disabled people. Compared with non-disabled people, disabled people were:

- more likely to live in areas of greater deprivation
- less likely to be living in one-family households and more likely to live alone
- more likely to have a low annual household income.

Disabled adults were:

- more likely to have no educational qualifications and less likely to have post-school qualifications
- less likely to be employed (and more likely not to be in the labour market)
- more likely to have a lower annual personal income
- less likely to be partnered.

The next Disability Survey will be carried out in 2013. Preliminary results are expected to be available in 2014, with further detailed analysis from 2015.

The Office for Disability Issues has worked with Statistics New Zealand to increase access to, and availability of, information from the 2001 and 2006 Disability Surveys. Changes were also made to the 2013 Disability Survey, so that it will better measure indicators of disabled people's life outcomes.

Chronic diseases can lead to loss of functioning and to dependency

Limited attention has been directed to measures that prevent or reduce the growth in dependence on health and disability support services. Over time, the tendency has been to focus on providing specialised disability support services once someone has already acquired an impairment or developed further limited functioning as a result of chronic disease or injury. This approach is like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, and does not address the causes of disability that could be prevented or minimised.

The need to prevent or delay poor health will become a pressing issue, given the projected increase in our older population and in healthcare expenditure. Another factor is the loss to the economy of disabled people, and often their family members, who are limited in their ability to work or otherwise contribute to the economy.

Learning from the Christchurch earthquakes

Disabled people have been further disadvantaged by the disruption to some disability support services and the damage to buildings, roads and public spaces in Christchurch. These present additional challenges to those

already faced by disabled people. Also, the immediate emergency response showed there was a gap in recognising local responsibility for ensuring the welfare of some disabled people.

PART

3

Opportunities for action

Making leadership, co-ordination and accountability more effective across government

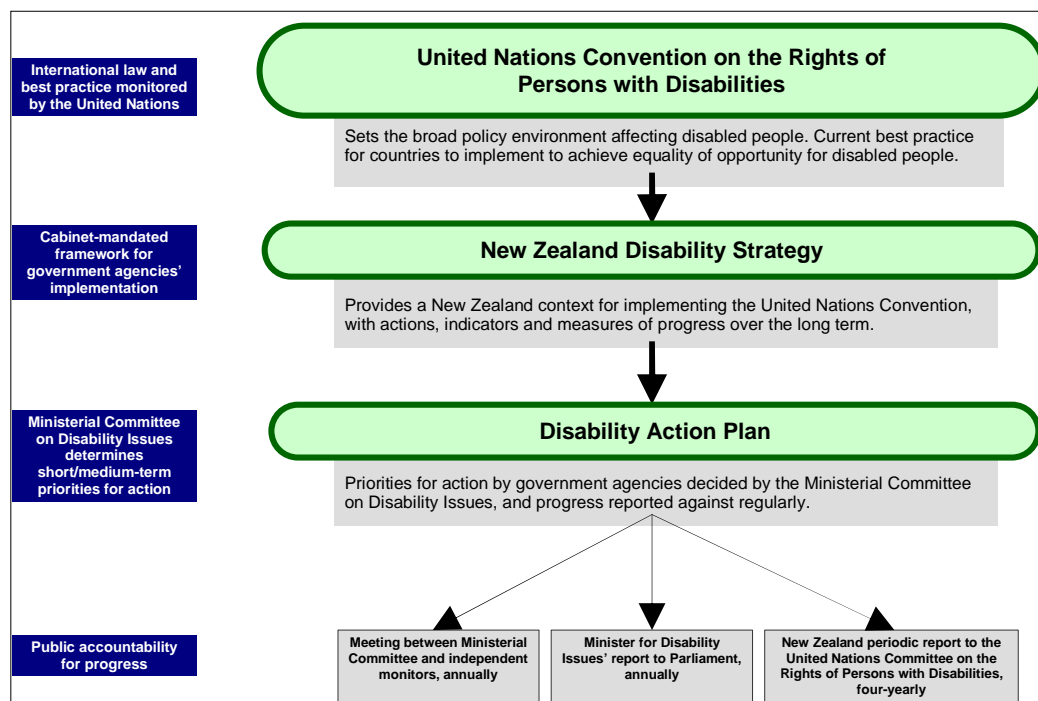
The Ministerial Committee's accountability role can be enhanced

After three years in operation, it is timely to revitalise the Ministerial Committee and build on its achievements. The interests of the independent monitoring organisations and the wider disability sector could also be better incorporated into the Ministerial Committee's consideration. We will provide more information to you on revitalising the Ministerial Committee.

Updating our domestic policy framework will enable better priority-setting

A clearer and more coherent policy environment for government agencies will be achieved by updating the New Zealand Disability Strategy. It can be transformed into the domestic vehicle that implements the United Nations Convention, by explicitly linking our international obligations with on-the-ground implementation.

Figure 2: The New Zealand policy environment on disability issues



Updating the New Zealand Disability Strategy will allow the streamlining of different demands on government agencies. A simpler picture of the New Zealand policy environment on disability issues would be achieved. The United Nations Convention's obligations will be examined to see what has been achieved and what still needs to be implemented in a

New Zealand context. Measures and indicators of progress can be developed and reported against periodically.

We intend to provide you with a plan for updating the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

Achieving a coherent policy environment will help improve on the current Disability Action Plan by developing a more measurable work programme that clearly tracks progress against our obligations. A streamlined policy framework will also enable you, your ministerial colleagues, government agencies and the disability sector to see what needs to be done and to measure progress.

Exploring issues being examined by the United Nations

We are working on two key issues that the United Nations is likely to focus on during its examination of countries' implementation of the United Nations Convention. New Zealand has time to prepare and take action before our examination, which is due sometime from 2013.

Disabled people's self-determination and exercising of their legal capacity

We have been working with the Ministries of Justice and Health and disability sector representatives to explore how disabled people can better make decisions about their lives, and reduce the use of the courts and legal measures providing substitute decision-making. We will report to you with options.

The United Nations Convention's Optional Protocol

The disability sector has a strong interest in the Government ratifying the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention, which allows disabled people to submit communications to the United Nations alleging a breach of their rights. We are working with the Ministry of Justice to explore the impact of the Optional Protocol on our domestic setting.

Getting more disabled people into paid work

Disabled people say that getting a job is the most important issue for them. Actions that lead to more disabled people getting into paid work and achieving greater independence will contribute to the country's productivity and reduce costs on government. Disabled people and their families will enjoy a better quality of life.

Most disabled people want to work, but face barriers to getting a job or staying and progressing in a job. Too often disabled people miss out on opportunities because someone else assumes they can't work or that they should not be expected to work. Instead, taking a 'jobs-first' approach would allow disabled people to have the same aspirations for work as non-disabled people.

Reasonable accommodation can make the difference

Often only small adjustments are needed that do not cost much, for example workplace changes, equipment, computer software or flexible hours. Every effort, including any reasonable accommodations,⁷ should be made to get a disabled person into work that matches their skills. Only where the accommodation or support is not reasonable, or cannot be provided, should non-work options be explored.

Technology can make communication easier

Emerging technology presents increasing opportunities for disabled people to participate in society and overcome access and communication barriers, if this technology can be made available and affordable. It will allow reasonable accommodation to be more readily provided in some cases.

One example that will benefit Deaf people is our work with the Ministry of Economic Development to establish a Video Remote Interpreting service in New Zealand. This will enable better access to New Zealand Sign Language interpreters around the country and result in better communication with Deaf people (for example, when a Deaf person goes to Work and Income to meet with a case manager to discuss accessing employment support). It will enable employers to feel more comfortable hiring Deaf people if there is easy access to interpreters to help with communication in the workplace.

We expect that a Video Remote Interpreting service can be run at a minimal cost by taking advantage of the infrastructure of the already established and funded Telecommunications Relay Service (which is provided by Sprint Ltd under contract from the Ministry of Economic Development).

Welfare reform is about better supporting people into work

You have an important contribution to make in the Government's leadership on welfare reform. There is anxiety among those disabled people who are dependent on benefit income about what may happen.

A prime concern is ensuring that assessment of a person's ability to work is fair and supports people into work they can do. Someone's ability to work can be variable, and may depend on reasonable accommodation in a workplace and appropriate supports being available.

It will be important to ensure that information on welfare reform is accessible to as wide an audience as possible, so that disabled people can be involved in consultation on an equal basis with others.

Skills and knowledge are needed to get into a job

Some disabled people experience problems developing the skills the labour market needs, because they have not gained the educational qualifications, skills and experience needed for jobs while in school or tertiary education. Without the right skills to offer, many disabled people find it difficult to get into a job, get work experience, and develop a career. These factors

contribute to many disabled people being in low-skilled jobs, unemployed, or not in the labour market.

The effectiveness of tertiary education funding needs to be explored to ensure the right programmes are in place to help disabled people develop further skills that will help them to transition well from school and participate in the labour market.

Promoting positive attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people is important for inclusive workplaces

Disabled people say that a key barrier they experience in all areas of life, including employment, is negative attitudes towards them. Budget 2010 provided \$3 million over three years for a programme to promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people. Local and national social change initiatives have been funded and research commissioned.

The time-limited funding expires on 30 June 2013. You will need to consider reprioritising your currently funded disability-related initiatives⁸, or discuss with your ministerial colleagues other reprioritising, if you wish to continue to fund the programme beyond 2012/2013.

Implementing a cross-sector plan on jobs

The Ministry of Social Development and the Office for Disability Issues are working with government agencies, the Employers' Disability Network and the disability sector's Employment Disability Forum to develop actions for each sector to improve the employment prospects of disabled people. We will report to you on overall progress with the plan.

As part of its contribution to the plan, the Government recently announced a new \$500,000 Disability Innovation Fund for 2011/2012 to create new and innovative opportunities for disabled people to get into paid work.

Providing early intervention and rehabilitation keeps individuals and families well

Increasing the investment in promoting the health and resilience of people and families can help prevent increasing costs on government resulting from dependency or unnecessary loss of function. This can be done by focusing on the increasing rate of chronic disease, such as diabetes or stroke, that can lead to impairment and dependency, and limiting its impact through rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is needed for other disabled people too, so that they do not unnecessarily acquire additional impairment and become more disabled. Sometimes what is needed is getting the right supports in place early on.

Preventing the unnecessary growth of dependency

The Ministry of Health is planning for primary health services to place greater emphasis on preventing or reducing the impact of non-communicable chronic diseases, such as diabetes or respiratory and cardiac conditions. In

addition, better and earlier rehabilitation support can help some people, such as those experiencing strokes, to regain functioning faster, retain it for longer, and return to work earlier. We support this approach. It will help to lessen the growing pressure on health and disability support expenditure.

Helping families be resilient

The stress of dealing with disability for the first time and the costs that may result can lead to serious disruption to families. Supporting families when an impairment is identified is critical to ensuring the family stays together and that all members, including the disabled person, are well and can lead everyday lives.

Early intervention can be as simple as ensuring families know what to expect and where to go if they need to know more. Information can be difficult to find, access and understand in practical and useful ways, especially when a person is newly experiencing disability. Making sure information is accessible to a wide audience and in plain English needs to be a priority for disability support services.

Enabling mobility and access around the community

Moving around and accessing the community is a fundamental activity that disabled people need to do to get into work, education and training, or otherwise participate in their community. However, some disabled people experience barriers in accessing the built environment, information or services, and this limits their choices and participation options.

Encourage greater compliance with the Building Act 2004

There is an opportunity to promote understanding and better practice by local authorities, designers and the building industry in meeting the accessibility requirements of the Building Act 2004. We intend to work with the Department of Building and Housing, professional building associations and local authorities to identify what resources and support could make this happen. Another option to consider is requiring local authorities to increase their monitoring of compliance with making buildings accessible.

Taking a lifetime approach to housing

Residential housing is not covered by the accessibility provisions of the Building Act 2004. Without any requirement to build private houses with accessibility in mind, the cost of retrofitting existing houses to support a disabled person is higher than it needs to be. The cost will be borne by the Ministry of Health or ACC, and individuals and families. Building more accessible housing could reduce this ongoing cost. It is less expensive to design and build an accessible house from the start than to retrofit for accessibility later on.

Budget 2010 provided \$1.5 million over three years to promote lifetime design for new build houses, which the Ministry of Social Development

contracted Lifetime Design Ltd to undertake. It will take some time for this approach to make an impact in the housing market.

New regulations setting minimum accessibility requirements would ensure a faster increase in houses built to lifetime design standards, and would ensure that more people will have good homes they can live in. We support developing regulatory options.

Be. Accessible

Be. Accessible is a social marketing initiative that is developing a new approach to communicating the business case for accessibility. It is reaching out to different populations to generate a new kind of excitement and interest. Budget 2011 provided ongoing funding of \$1 million per year for Be. Accessible, which is provided under contract from the Ministry of Social Development. If businesses are accessible, hire disabled workers, and support their city being inclusive, they and their cities will benefit from tourists who need or prefer facilities and venues that are easy to access and use.

Increasing access to mainstream services

The demand on specialised disability services could be reduced if disabled people were more able to access and use mainstream government information and services. For example, a disabled person wanting to find out information or access support to get into employment should be able to go to the same place and access the same supports as anyone else seeking work.

Achieving more accessible mainstream services could allow government agencies to focus on those more vulnerable disabled people, who may have greater or more complex needs and therefore need specialised disability supports.

One step is ensuring that all publicly available information about services, supports and entitlements is easily accessible. In September 2011 the Office for Disability Issues published a 'quick tips' for communications professionals on making information accessible. We are using this resource to increase the accessibility of Ministry of Social Development publications, and will encourage its use by other government agencies.

Improving supports so disabled people can live everyday lives

The current system of supports, spread across several agencies, is not always good at being responsive to individuals' or families' needs, nor does it enable them to have much choice or control over their lives. Changes are needed to allow disabled people to have more flexibility, control and choice over supports they use in daily living.

In 2011 the Ministry of Health began demonstrating the core elements of a new model for disability supports in the Western Bay of Plenty. Several aspects of the model have been implemented:

- supported self-assessment, which enables people to tell their story themselves rather than having to work through a professional assessor, is available for some people seeking support
- the first Local Area Co-ordinators⁹ have been appointed and trained, and have begun working.

An expanded individualised funding scheme encompassing most community-based support funded by the Ministry of Health is due to be implemented in early 2012. In addition, the Ministry of Health is beginning a demonstration of 'Choice in Community Living' in Auckland and Waikato. Choice in Community Living is an alternative to residential services, and is about opening up opportunities for disabled people and their families to have more choice and control about their living circumstances – where they live, who they live with, and how they are supported.

These demonstrations aim to learn about the most effective ways of further implementing the new model. This approach can be extended to all government disability supports. There needs to be an easier way for disability supports to connect across life areas, such as family, employment, education and recreation, so that disabled people can experience integration of supports they access. Supports should enable them to live everyday lives, and not create barriers owing to fragmented service provision.

'Enabling Good Lives'

In 2011 the Office for Disability Issues facilitated an independent working group of disability sector experts that recommended a new approach to supporting disabled people who are not working. The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health are considering the eligibility, funding, and transition pathways for the working group's approach. Trials of the approach are being explored in Waikato, Wellington and Christchurch. By March 2012 we will report to you with options for wider implementation.

Promoting the inclusion of disabled people in the rebuild of Christchurch

There is an opportunity to promote greater inclusion of disabled people in the rebuild of Christchurch by:

- making disability supports more individualised and flexible
- reshaping the built environment to improve accessibility for disabled people, by making sure that current requirements for the built environment are implemented in the rebuild.

We are working with other government agencies on a report-back on progress to the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on Canterbury Earthquake

Recovery. We can also share experiences from the emergency response with other cities to better recognise the welfare of disabled people.

The Ministry of Social Development provided funding for the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) to help disabled people have their say in the recovery planning process.

PART

4

How we work with you

Our whole business supports the Disability Issues portfolio

The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development, Brendan Boyle, is responsible for supporting the Minister for Disability Issues. All the Ministry's business groups are available to make this happen, including the Office for Disability Issues.

Policy leadership is provided by Sue Mackwell, Deputy Chief Executive, Social Policy and Knowledge group. The Deputy Chief Executive, Family and Community Services leads the social change programme to promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people, and administers the funding to Be. Accessible. As well, Work and Income and Child, Youth and Family have dedicated staff providing leadership and support for the responsiveness of frontline services to disabled people.

We will work with you to develop a work programme that reflects your priorities, and will review progress at regular meetings with you.

Office for Disability Issues – the disability focal point in government

The Office for Disability Issues was established not long after the ministerial portfolio. It has a whole-of-government mandate. It exists to support you in promoting the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the Disability Action Plan (and the United Nations Convention) and to monitor their implementation by departments – including by the Ministry of Social Development.

The Office for Disability Issues prepares your annual report to Parliament on progress in implementing the New Zealand Disability Strategy, via the Disability Action Plan, and your four-yearly report to the United Nations on implementing the United Nations Convention.

For these reasons it is a semi-autonomous group within the Ministry of Social Development. The Ministry provides support but does not interfere in its independent monitoring. The General Manager, Employment, Skills and Income Support policy has responsibility for the Office for Disability Issues. It has six full-time staff, including the Director, Dr Jan Scown.

The Office for Disability Issues is the designated focal point within government on disability issues. It facilitates engagement between the government and non-government sectors and meets regularly with the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsmen and the Convention Coalition (of disabled people's organisations) as part of the framework designated to monitor implementation of the United Nations Convention. These roles give the Office for Disability Issues a unique overview on matters impacting on disabled people.

Stakeholders are engaged through a variety of ways, including:

- regular meetings with key representative organisations

- at least two meetings a year of our Disability Forum, which involves inviting organisations from across the disability sector to discuss key issues with government agencies
- online email discussion forums to support ongoing contact with the Disability Forum
- support for working groups on specific issues
- a monthly email newsletter on disability issues in government and from the disability sector.

In 2012 the Office for Disability Issues will look at making our engagement with the disability sector more effective by improving our communications and making more use of online opportunities.

This multi-faceted approach replaced the Disability Advisory Council, which provided advice from various disability perspectives to the Office for Disability Issues. The Council consisted of 13 disabled people and family carers selected by disabled people's organisations and the Carers Alliance, which met around three times a year from 2005 to 2010. It became inactive in favour of more direct contact with disabled people and disability sector organisations.

Key stakeholders

The Office for Disability Issues maintains relationships with a range of community organisations with an interest in disability issues, including:

- ACHIEVE (Post-Secondary Education Disability Network)
- ASENZ (Association for Supported Employment)
- Association of Blind Citizens
- Autism New Zealand
- Barrier Free New Zealand Trust
- Carers New Zealand
- CCS Disability Action
- Deaf Aotearoa
- DPA (the Disabled Persons Assembly)
- IHC
- New Zealand Disability Support Network
- Ngā Hau E Whā
- Ngāti Kāpo
- NZVASS (Federation of Vocational and Support Services)
- Parent to Parent
- People First
- Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
- SAMS (Standards and Monitoring Service)

- Workbridge.

Key public sector agencies include:

- ACC
- Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority
- Department of Building and Housing
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Housing New Zealand Corporation
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (including NZAID)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Tertiary Education Commission
- Mental Health Commission
- Office of the Health and Disability Commissioner
- Human Rights Commission
- Office of the Ombudsmen.

Endnotes

¹ Statistics New Zealand (2007). *Hot Off The Press – 2006 New Zealand Disability Survey*. http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey2006_HOTP06.aspx

² Projections based on age group-specific disability prevalence rates from *Disability and Māori in New Zealand in 2006*, Appendix tables 3 and 4, and age group-specific population projections, base 2009, with medium birth, death and migration assumptions, at: http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/disability-and-maori.aspx and http://www.stats.govt.nz/tools_and_services/tools/TableBuilder/population-projections-tables.aspx

³ Statistics New Zealand (2007). *Hot Off The Press – 2006 New Zealand Disability Survey*. http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey2006_HOTP06.aspx

⁴ Correspondence from Kathryn McPherson, Professor of Rehabilitation (Laura Fergusson Chair), Auckland University of Technology, October 2011.

⁵ The Disability Allowance is for people who have ongoing extra costs because of a disability or illness. Receipt of this allowance is not dependent on age, but it is income tested. The amount paid is based on the actual costs that have been or will be incurred on a regular basis, up to a maximum rate (adjusted for inflation annually). At 1 April 2011, the maximum weekly, non-taxable, rate was \$59.12.

⁶ The Convention Coalition consists of the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA), the Association of Blind Citizens, People First, Deaf Aotearoa, Ngāti Kāpo, and Ngā Hau E Whā (a network of organisations of people with experience of mental illness).

⁷ 'Reasonable accommodation' is set out in the Human Rights Act 1993 in several sections applying to the private sector. Every reasonable measure should be taken to avoid discriminating on the basis of disability. Only where the measures needed in a particular case are not reasonable can discrimination against a disabled person occur.

⁸ 2010 and 2011 Budgets (Vote: Social Development only) funded four disability initiatives:

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	Out-years
Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-
Promoting lifetime design in housing	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	-	-
Independent monitoring by disabled people	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	-	-
Be. Accessible	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$1,750,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

⁹ Local Area Co-ordinators support disabled people and their families to get information, work out how they want to live and set goals, build relationships with people and organisations in their communities and work with communities so they are welcoming of disabled people.