



**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

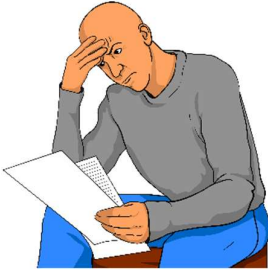


# **Cabinet paper from the Minister for Disability Issues: Accelerating Accessibility in New Zealand**



**May 2022**

## Before you start



This is a long document.



While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone help you to understand it.

# What you will find in here

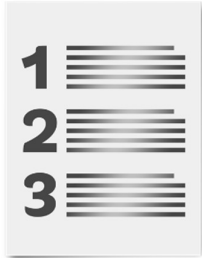
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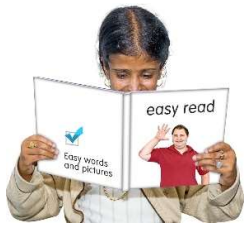
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# What is this document about?

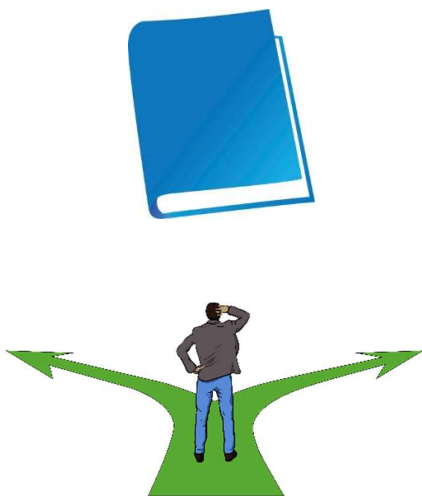


This Easy Read document is about a **Cabinet paper** to do with **accelerating accessibility** in New Zealand.



## 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.



**Accelerating accessibility** means looking at what needs to be done to make New Zealand accessible for disabled people faster.



You can find out more about what **accessibility** means on **page 7**.



The Cabinet paper is for the **Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee**.



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

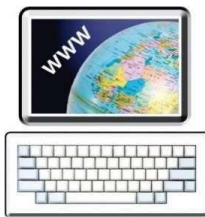


**Social wellbeing** is about making sure everyone has a good quality of life.



Social wellbeing makes sure that everyone:

- feels safe / healthy
- has access to the services they need
- has a safe place to live
- has strong social connections with other people in the community they are part of.



You can find a list of the government ministers who are on the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee at this **website**:

**<https://dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet-committees/swc-cabinet-social-wellbeing-committee>**



The Cabinet paper is from the Minister for Disability Issues.

The Minister for Disability Issues is Carmel Sepuloni.



This document is an Easy Read **summary** of some of the things in the Cabinet paper.



**A summary:**

- is shorter
- tells you the main ideas.

# What is the Cabinet paper about?



The Cabinet paper is to do with making sure that New Zealand is **accessible** for all disabled people.



**Accessible** can mean many different things for people.



**Accessible** means that disabled people can:

- get into / move around in buildings
- use services easily
- get around in their community
- understand what is being said
- get information in ways that they can understand.







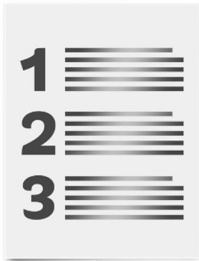
This Easy Read translation looks at 2 parts of the Cabinet paper:

### 1. Proposal

### 2. Executive Summary



**Proposal** is the idea the Minister for Disability Issues is asking the Cabinet to think about.



**Executive Summary** looks at the important main messages in the Cabinet paper.



The paper also outlines some decisions the Minister for Disability Issues has made about how the government can make things better for disabled people.



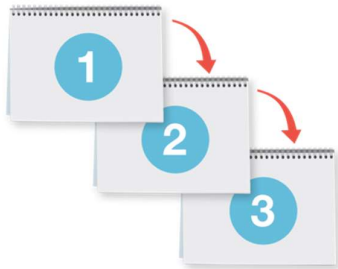
In this document when we say **disabled people** this means:

- disabled adults
- disabled tamariki / children
- disabled rangatahi / young people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori.

# 1. Proposal



The Cabinet paper tells Cabinet details about something called an **accessibility framework** .



A **framework** is a way of showing how something will work.

A framework is important as it shows the best ways to:

- deal with problems
- decide what to do.



The accessibility framework is part of a new law that Cabinet said yes to in October 2021.



The Cabinet paper has information about a plan to improve disability support services in New Zealand.



The plan to improve disability support services also includes:

- putting together a new Ministry for Disabled People
- bringing the **Enabling Good Lives** approach to **Disability Support Services** across all of New Zealand.

## Enabling Good Lives



**Enabling Good Lives** is a different way of thinking about disability support.

## Enabling Good Lives



Enabling Good Lives is about having:

- choice and control in your life
- the support you need and want
- a good life.



You can find more information about Enabling Good Lives at this **website**:

**[www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz](http://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz)**

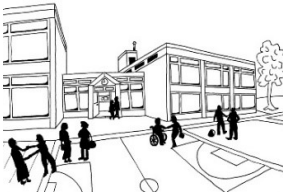
## 2. Executive Summary

### Barriers to accessibility



Accessibility is important because it means that disabled people:

- are able to be part of their community
- have the same access as everyone else to do things like:
  - having a job
  - getting an education
  - being able to vote in elections.



Disabled people are often affected by **barriers** that make accessibility difficult for them.



**Barriers** are things that make it harder for disabled people.

Barriers can be physical things like:



- buildings that are not accessible to people who struggle with mobility issues



- businesses that do not offer accessible ways to contact them.

Barriers can also be how people act towards disabled people like:



- a business chooses not hire a disabled person for a job they can do



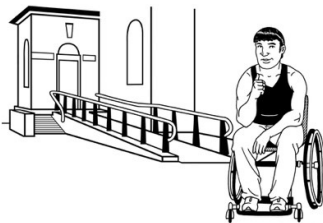
- an essential service uses long words in an important document which makes it difficult to understand.



The accessibility framework outlined in the Cabinet paper shows how the government can:



- check if there are any barriers
- stop any barriers from being put in the way



- get rid of any barriers.



It has been agreed that getting rid of accessibility barriers will make things better for every person in New Zealand who:



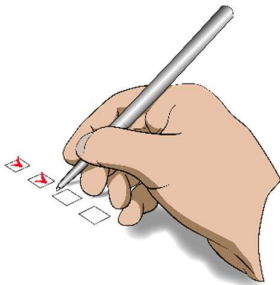
- is disabled
- has accessibility needs.



## Creating a Ministerial Advisory Committee



The Minister for Disability Issues asked Cabinet to create an **Accessibility Governance Board**.



A **Governance Board** is a group of people who:

- decide what should be done
- check the right things are being done.

The Governance Board will work as a **Ministerial Advisory Committee**.



The **Ministerial Advisory Committee** will advise the government about how to assess accessibility barriers.



The Ministerial Advisory Committee will be made up of:

- 6 to 8 people who have a lot of different skills to share
- a higher number of disabled people than non disabled people.

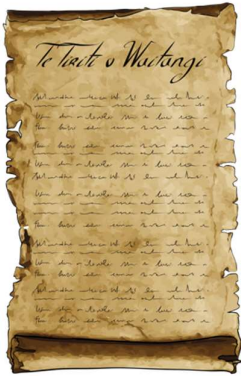


At least half the number of the committee members will be Māori.

All Ministerial Advisory Committee members should have good knowledge / understanding of:

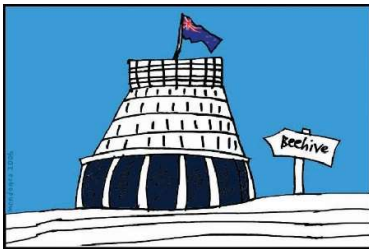
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**
- **te ao Māori**
- **tikanga Māori.**





**Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi** is a legal document that was signed in 1840.

**Te Tiriti / The Treaty** is important to Aotearoa New Zealand.



It is about Māori and the New Zealand Government:

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



**Te ao Māori** is about how Māori think about and see the world.



**Tikanga Māori** is about living in a way that honours Māori values.



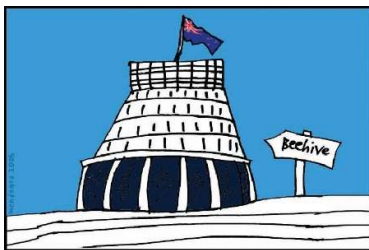
Following Te Tiriti / The Treaty means making sure that tāngata whaikaha / disabled Māori are fully involved including:



- disabled rangatahi / young people
- tamariki / children
- whānau / family.



The advice from the Ministerial Advisory Committee will be given to the **House of Representatives** in Parliament.

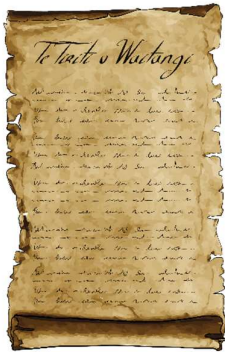


The **House of Representatives** is the people who have been elected to Parliament.

The Minister for Disability Issues will be asked to:



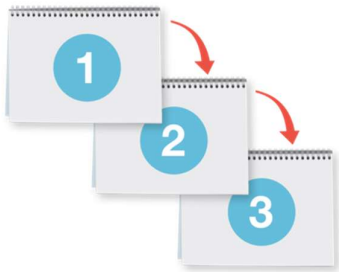
- respond to the advice given to them by the Ministerial Advisory Committee
- show how they have thought about the advice.



The Minister for Disability Issues says it is a good idea for the **legislation** about the accessibility framework to follow the principles of **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**.



**Legislation** means a set of laws / other rules that must be followed.



A framework will also be set up to assess how things are going with the work to accelerate accessibility.



The framework for assessment will include:

- a report from the Ministerial Advisory Committee every year
- decisions about how information is shared
- a **review** of the accessibility legislation every 5 years.



A **review** means to look at something again to see if anything needs to be changed.

## Decisions made by the Minister for Disability Issues



The paper also sets out some decisions the Minister for Disability Issues has made.



Decisions the Minister has made about the accessibility legislation include:

- what it aims to do
- what kind of standards it will follow.





Decisions the Minister for Disability Issues has made about the Ministerial Advisory Committee are things like:

- how it will do its job
- how it will give advice to the government
- who it will talk to when putting advice together
- how the government will work to put its advice to good use.



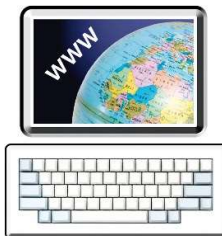


## Where to find more information



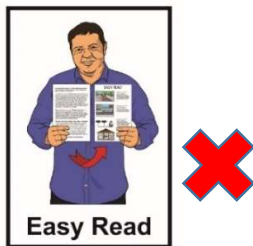
The full version of the Cabinet paper is called:

**Accelerating Accessibility in New Zealand**



You can find the full version of the Cabinet paper at the **Ministry of Social Development website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/2jrpxc36>



The full version of the Cabinet paper is not in Easy Read.



You may want to ask someone to assist you to read it.



You can also contact the **Ministry of Social Development**.

**Phone: 04 916 3300**



**Email: [info@msd.govt.nz](mailto:info@msd.govt.nz)**



You can ask them to post you a copy of the Cabinet paper.

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