



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government



Cabinet paper from the Minister for Disability Issues: Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill



September 2022

What this document is about



This Easy Read document is a **summary** of a **Cabinet paper** about the **Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill**.



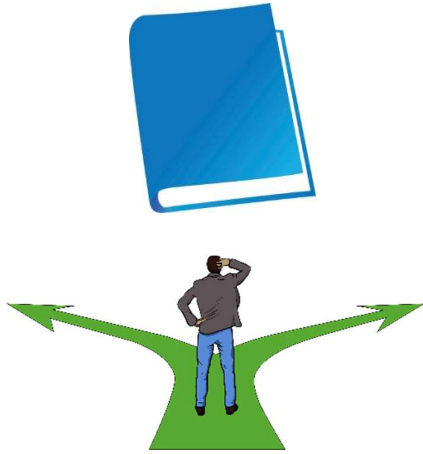
A summary:

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



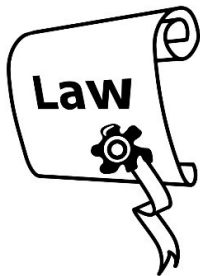
Cabinet:

- 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.



A **bill** is a government document that tells you about a new law the Government is looking at making.



This Cabinet paper is asking Cabinet to agree with introducing the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill to the **House of Representatives**.



Members of Parliament meet in the **House of Representatives**.

Members of Parliament:

- are the people you vote for at election time
- make important decisions about how New Zealand should be run.



The Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill is about making **accessibility** better for disabled people.



Accessibility can mean many different things for people.



Accessibility 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.



What the bill is about



This bill will work towards making accessibility better across all of Aotearoa New Zealand.



The bill sets up a new way for the New Zealand Government to remove **accessibility barriers**.

Accessibility barriers are things that make it harder for disabled people to access things they need.



Better accessibility will allow everyone to take part in their community.



This bill is needed to work towards making New Zealand fully accessible.

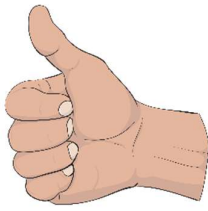


To make New Zealand fully accessible the bill will ask for an **Accessibility Committee** to be set up.



The Accessibility Committee is a group of people that will work with the government to:

- find what accessibility barriers there are in New Zealand
- work to stop more accessibility barriers being made in New Zealand
- work to get rid of current accessibility barriers in New Zealand
- work towards making accessibility for all people common in New Zealand.



The bill needs to be checked to:

- make sure it works well
- see if it needs any changes.



The new bill will need to be checked after it has been used for **5 years** to make sure it is working well.

What needs to happen next



The Minister for Disability Issues is Poto Williams.

The Minister has asked that Cabinet agree that:



- at least half of the members on the Accessibility Committee are Māori
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi is followed as part of the bill
- the **Parliamentary Counsel Office** can keep making small changes to the bill before it is introduced to Cabinet.

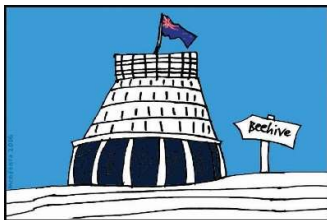


The **Parliamentary Counsel Office** is the part of the government that wrote the bill.



The Minister for Disability Issues has also asked that Cabinet agree that:

- when the bill becomes part of New Zealand law the government will need to follow its rules
- the bill will be introduced to Parliament by 31 July 2022
- the bill will be looked at by the **Social Services and Community Committee**
- the bill will start being used by July 2024.



The **Social Services and Community Committee** is a group of Members of Parliament that looks at social issues in New Zealand.



The bill will need to be agreed to by enough Members of Parliament to be part of the law.



The bill will not become part of the law if not enough Members of Parliament agree to it.

Where to find more information



You can read more about the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill on the Ministry of Social Development website at:

<https://bit.ly/3Q10xib>



You can find Easy Read information about the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycm4cszp>



You can also find **An Easy Read guide about how a bill becomes law in New Zealand** on the New Zealand Parliament **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckxzjxx>

If you would like a hard copy of this guide you can:



- email: **parlinfo@parliament.govt.nz**
- phone: **04 817 9647**.



This information has been written by the Ministry of Social Development.



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