

From: [ODI \(MSD\)](#)
To: [Maria-Laura Crespo](#)
Cc: Out of scope ; [Jasmine Lindsay](#); Out of ; [ODI \(MSD\)](#); [Diane Turner](#); [Brian Coffey](#)
Subject: ODI Feedback - COVID-19 Protection Framework Cab paper: request for input - due 12noon Wednesday
Date: Wednesday, 24 November 2021 1:23:43 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
Importance: High

Kia ora Maria-Laura,

Please find feedback from ODI below. Apologies for the delay in getting this to you.

What will be the benefits/risks in moving to the COVID-19 protection framework?

- There is significant pressure on families/whānau of disabled children during isolation/quarantine, particularly in Auckland due to long lockdowns. Special schools are yet to re-open, and there is limited availability of respite care.
- Moving to the protection framework will alleviate some of these pressures, but this will be tempered by perceived risks regarding safety.
- We note that information in accessible formats (Large Print, Audio and Easy Read) has been published on the COVID-19 website, but there is no information on the framework available in NZSL or braille. It will be critical that this information is available in all formats ahead of the move to the COVID-19 protection framework.

Are there key concerns that have not yet been addressed through policy decisions?

- There is fear of COVID-19 within the disabled community. Some members of the community have been too scared to leave their homes, even for essential services. This will be as the new system will be perceived as allowing into the wider community.
- An emphasis needs to be placed on communicating why this move to the framework is the appropriate next step because as far as the disability community are concerned it is not.
- It would be damaging if a disability support worker or carer contracted COVID-19 given their multiple touch points within the community. Often, they will be caring for numerous people at any given time. The disability sector already has a shortage of qualified staff. An outbreak within the sector would lead to an already stretched workforce needing to self-isolate or quarantine, leading to a reduction in capability to care for clients. It is not clear what has been put in place to mitigate this risk.
- The application process for COVID-19 vaccination certification (CVC) is a 'hot topic' for the disability community due to the identity documents needed to apply. ODI has received a number of emails from concerned members of the public regarding the identification criteria.
 - Some disabled people are unlikely to have a drivers' license or passport (due to cost barriers, or being unable to drive a motor vehicle).
 - The My Covid Record process does not recognise the Kiwi Access Card as a form of identity – the accepted identity documents listed on the [Ministry of Health](#) website are driver license, passport, birth certificate or citizenship certificate.
 - Many disabled people use the Kiwi Access Card as proof of identity – ODI worked with DIA to get the card changed from the HANZ 18+ card a couple of years ago. The card was upgraded with security and accessibility features, including embossing, micro text, and braille to assist blind and low vision users.
 - We are supportive of extending the ID criteria to include the Kiwi Access Card. There are potential human rights issues regarding access to CVCs. Public policy must be designed in a way that does not systematically

disadvantage disabled people. There needs to be reasonable accommodations designed into public policy, so that disabled people are able to access their rights like other citizens.

- We are unsure whether this feedback relates to this paper, however ODI has ongoing concerns regarding the 'Care in the Community model'. The majority of feedback provided by ODI has been taken on board, however, there has not been a commitment to implement robust and ongoing monitoring to provide systematic insights on the issues for disabled people and their whānau, and how these will be addressed. We are pushing for monitoring because:
 - It is important that disabled people and their whānau have the right supports in place to feel confident that they can isolate in the community.
 - The disability community will also want assurances that we are monitoring their needs, and that we are responding to and resolving any issues raised.
 - If disabled people feel that the isolation approaches available will not meet their needs, we may inadvertently create a situation where disabled people and their whānau do not get tested for COVID-19.

Any questions, please get in touch with Brian or Jasmine.

Ngā mihi

ODI team

Office for Disability Issues

Ministry of Social Development, 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556, Te Whanganui-a-Tara 6140

Email: odi@msd.govt.nz

ODI: <http://www.odi.govt.nz> | [@NZ_ODI](https://www.facebook.com/nzofficefordisabilityissues)

Office for Disability Issues logo

