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Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 9:36 AM
To: Out of scope @health.govt.nz>
Cc: ODI (MSD) <Office_for_Disability_Issues@msd.govt.nz>
Subject: Heads up Disabled Persons Engagement Group

Kia ora Out of scope

A heads up, though I'm sure you are aware of this.

I became aware yesterday when our Minister's office saw the communications and predicted the considerable angst which was soon confirmed by correspondence they received from the HRC and others.

There is considerable distress and noise (including emails/letters) regarding the prioritisation approach for the provision of community and homecare services.

Unfortunately the messaging hasn't landed well given the context of uncertainty, fatigue, fear, and well-being concerns in the community.

While everyone will probably agree that planning needs to occur if work force capacity is compromised by Covid/Omicron a summary of the key issues I've picked up are:

- the arbitrary approach being proposed
- the prioritisation of services to "imminent risk of death or serious harm" is a high bar
- no provision for clients to seek support beyond their provider if their wellbeing and personal-care needs are compromised by the service prioritisation processes
- the communications assume that clients have family/whanau support of the community networks to step in
- lack of engagement with disabled people, their family/whanau on the approach proposed
- that the approach contravenes the health and disability code; and a number of UNCRPD articles etc.

My view .. make a commitment to engage with the community on these issues and to work through the approach, put out a holding statement that the approach is being reviewed and in the meantime expect that providers will make decisions on how services are prioritised on their knowledge of individuals personal circumstances etc while giving full regard to the Health and Disability Code.

Nga mihi

Brian