

New Zealand Disability Strategy

We are a diverse nation

- New Zealand's population is rich in differences.
- Gender, ethnicity, age, language and abilities.
- Diversity is increasing.
- Ageing population is a big driver of change.
- A one-size-fits-all approach will not work.

Disabled New Zealanders ...

- 24% of New Zealanders (that's 1.1 million people) have a long-term impairment.
- Likelihood of impairment increases with age.
- 59% of over 65 year olds have an impairment.
- Higher rates for Maori and Pacific people.
- Most common (adults): physical impairment.

Setting the strategic direction

- Consistency across government agencies.
- 2001 Strategy
 - introduced new way of thinking, rights-based approach
 - needs updating to reflect changes
 - revision process through 2016.
- 2016 Strategy
 - released by end of year
 - direction for the next 10 years
 - primary mechanism for implementing the CRPD.

Rights-based approach

- All people born equal, with the same rights.
- Everyone is a person before the law.
- Nothing prevents you exercising your rights.
- Different treatment ok...
- ... so long as continue to have equal opportunities (or equity in outcomes).
- Needing support should not diminish your rights.

A non-disabling society

- Equal opportunity to achieve goals and aspirations
- New strategic direction:
 - underlying approaches and principles
 - 8 outcomes to be achieved.
- Stronger accountability:
 - outcomes framework – targets, indicators
 - disability action plan – implementation.

Universal design adds value

- Feedback: need more use of universal design.
- Features in the twin-track approach:
 - Make mainstream more inclusive.
 - Specific for individuals:
 - reasonable accommodation of mainstream
 - and/or something in addition.

Good for everyone

- Expected in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 4).
- Consistent with social investment approach.
- Helps cater for an increasingly diverse population.
- Supports age-friendly communities.
- Combines living with dignity and efficiency.

Office for Disability Issues

Focal point on disability within government, located within the Ministry of Social Development.

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