Disabled People's Organisations Coalition



Disabled People's Organisations Coalition: Key Messages February 2026



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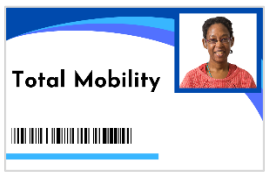
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The Disabled People's Organisations Coalition



The **Disabled People's Organisations Coalition** is a group of people who come from different disability organisations.



A **coalition** is a group of organisations that work towards shared goals.

Disabled People's Organisations Coalition

The Disabled People's Organisations Coalition is also called the **DPO Coalition**.

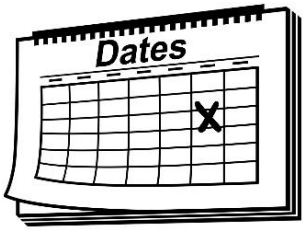


When you see the words **we / us** in this document it means the DPO Coalition.

Disabled People's Organisations Coalition

The DPO Coalition is made up of members from these 7 disability organisations:

- Balance Aotearoa
- Blind Citizens New Zealand
- Deaf Aotearoa
- Disabled Persons Assembly NZ
- Mana Pasefika
- Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand
- People First New Zealand – Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



We meet about every 6 weeks to talk about important things.

Disabled People's Organisations Coalition

We speak up about disabled people getting their **human rights**.



Human rights are things that the law says every person should:

- have
- be able to do.



We also talk with the Government about things to do with disability.

What this document is about

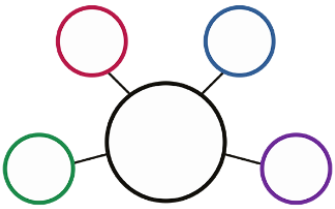


This is an Easy Read document.



It tells you about some of the key messages from the DPO Coalition meetings we had in February 2026.

During these meetings we met with lots of:



- Government agencies
- other community organisations.



These meetings are to make sure the lives of disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand are getting better.



2 important things talked about often are:

- **accessibility**



- the rights of disabled people in New Zealand under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



Accessibility means making sure everyone can use things in ways that are:

- easy
- safe.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**:

- says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody
- is an agreement lots of countries follow
- is also called the **UNCRPD**.





It takes time for our key messages to become available in Easy Read.



We are sorry for the long wait.

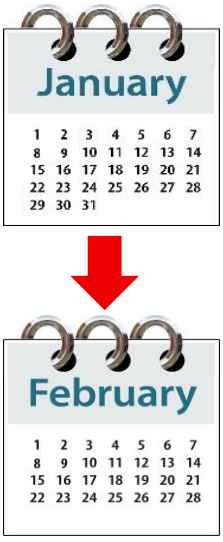
Minister for Disability Issues



We met with the Minister for Disability Issues Hon Louise Upston.



The Minister talked to us about the experiences disabled people had during the recent weather events across the top of the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand.



This was when the weather was stormy in:

- January 2026
- February 2026.



We talked about the importance of information being available:

- in alternate formats like Easy Read
- quickly.



This includes the need for New Zealand Sign Language **interpreters** to be available for media communications like:



- news videos
- social media posts.



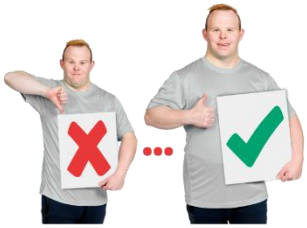
Interpreters support people who speak different languages to talk to each other.



We also asked the Minister to remind the people she works with about the importance of:



- the **New Zealand Disability Strategy**
- **actions** which should lead to:
  - useful changes
  - good changes.





The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** tells the Government how to make things better for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Easy Read information on the New Zealand Disability Strategy is available here:

tinyurl.com/ywbtbc6v



Actions are things done as part of meeting a **goal**.



Here a **goal** is how the New Zealand Disability Strategy want things to be.

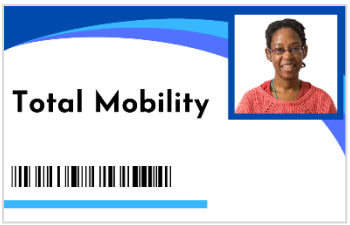


We also talked about how it is important that all the actions in the New Zealand Disability Strategy are being worked on.

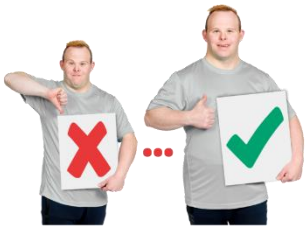
Ministry of Transport team and Total Mobility Scheme review



We met with the Ministry of Transport to talk about the **Total Mobility Scheme proposals** open for **public consultation**.



The **Total Mobility Scheme proposals** are **improvements** the Ministry of Transport have suggested for **Total Mobility**.



Improvements means to:

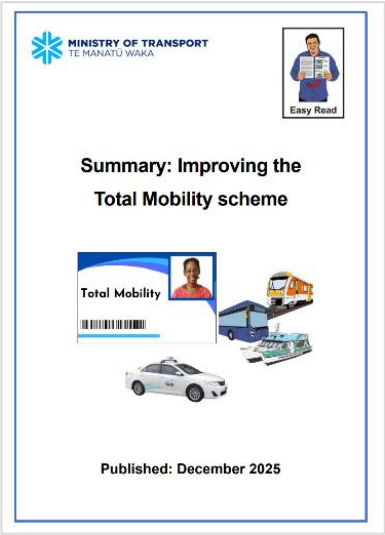
- change things
- make things better.



Total Mobility supports disabled people to move around by paying part of the cost of taxi trips.



Public consultation means the Ministry of Transport is asking people what they think about their proposal.



There is an Easy Read document called **Summary: Improving the Total Mobility scheme** available here:

tinyurl.com/4mc3fnmh



We told the Ministry our **feedback** on the 6 proposals.

Feedback means saying what you think about something.







Individual DPOs shared that they would:

- send their thoughts about the proposals as part of the public consultation
- tell their members to send their thoughts as part of the public consultation.

The public consultation closed on 22 March 2026.

Ministry of Social Development and ThinkPlace



We talked about the **Disability Employment Support Products Redesign project** with the:

- Ministry of Social Development
- ThinkPlace.



The **Disability Employment Support Products** are different services that focus on the **employment barriers** disabled people expereince when:



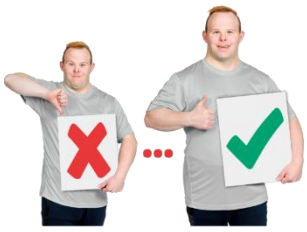
- looking for a job
- trying to keep their job.





Employment barriers are things that either:

- stop disabled people from:
  - getting a job
  - keeping a job
- make it harder for disabled people to:
  - get a job
  - keep a job.



Redesign project means the Ministry of Social Development is looking at these services to see how they can make them better.



This work is part of the actions of the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026 to 2030.



More Easy Read information on employment in the New Zealand Disability Strategy is available here:

tinyurl.com/z82tu62c



More information about the Disability Employment Support Products Redesign project is available here:

tinyurl.com/yrk8yv9z



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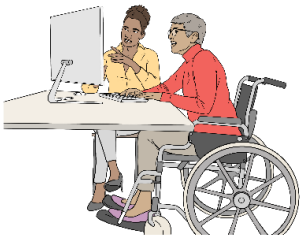


The Redesign project includes looking at these 4 services:

- specialist employment service
- employment service in schools
- mainstream wage subsidy
- job and training support funds.



We talked about this work is part of **Employment Action 2** of the New Zealand Disability Strategy.



Employment Action 2 is about making sure **specialist employment supports** are working to make employment better for disabled people.



Specialist employment supports are supports for disabled people to make it easier for them to work.



More Easy Read information on employment in the New Zealand Disability Strategy is available here:

tinyurl.com/z82tu62c



We will continue to be part of the redesign process.

We are looking forward to meeting with officials on the redesign project.

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People

We talked with Whaikaha about its feedback on the New Zealand Disability Strategy **Implementation** Plan.



Implementations are when the actions of a plan are being done.



Easy Read information about the New Zealand Disability Strategy Implementation Plan is available here:

https://tinyurl.com/4m84xf3f



Whaikaha said that 11 actions will be finished this year.



We talked about how important it was that all actions were started during the time agreed to in the Disability Strategy.



The newest Disability Strategy was agreed this year.



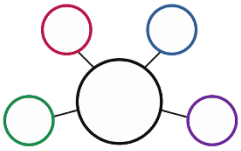
It was agreed to be worked on for the next 5 years until 2030.



We will continue to be part of the implementation of the Disability Strategy process.



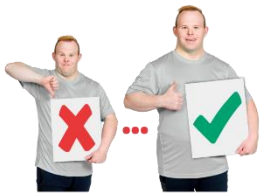
We also talked about the Accessibility Work Programme for this year.



The Accessibility Work Programme is a mix of different projects that focus on:



- working on **accessibility barriers** in New Zealand for disabled people



- making changes that support disabled people.



Accessibility barriers are things that stop something from being accessible.



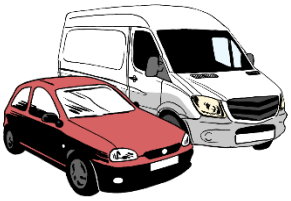
More information on the Accessibility Work Programme is available here:

https://tinyurl.com/3fje45nj



This information is **not** in Easy Read.

The Accessibility Work Programme will focus on:



- transport



- the built environment
- emergency management



- digital information.

We expect Whaikaha to share this information with more people.

Whaikaha
Ministry of Disabled People



We are happy to have 2 people from the DPO Coalition on the Accessibility Advisory Group.



More information on the Accessibility Advisory Group is available here:

tinyurl.com/4kuvn4zj



This information is **not** in Easy Read.

Voice of disabled people



The Government meets with the DPO Coalition so disabled people can have a say in the decisions being made about them.



The DPO Coalition is always looking for new DPOs to join us.



You can contact us by **emailing**:

us-dpo@groups.io

This information has been written by the DPO Coalition.

It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

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