Disabled People's Organisations Coalition



Disabled People's Organisations Coalition: Key Messages: March and May 2026

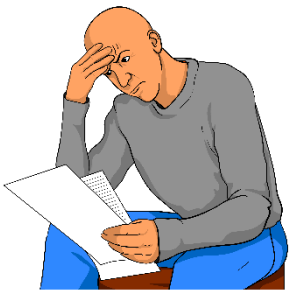


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Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



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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 NZ

- Blind Citizens New Zealand



- Deaf Aotearoa



Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

- Disabled Persons Assembly NZ



- Mana Pasefika



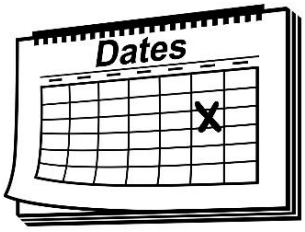
Muscular Dystrophy New Zealand

- Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand



People First NZ
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

- 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.



Human rights are things like:



- having a safe place to live
- being able to get married.



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

What this document is about

Disabled People's Organisations Coalition





This Easy Read is about some of the most important things the DPO Coalition talked about at our meetings in:

- March 2026
- May 2026.

New Zealand Government



During these meetings we talked to 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 we often talk about 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**.

Stats NZ



We met with a big group from **Stats NZ** on 26 March 2026.

Stats NZ is the Government agency that collects **data** about people in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Data means information that is collected to support people to understand something.



Stats NZ talked with us about the **census consultation**.



The **census** is a big survey / list of questions about people who live in Aotearoa New Zealand.



A **consultation** is when an organisation asks people what they think about something.



Stats NZ also talked to us about the **infringement policy** consultation.



An **infringement policy** is a policy about fines / making people pay for breaking Stats NZ rules.



Stats NZ wanted to hear what disabled people think about their plans for making people pay fines for not doing **compulsory** surveys.



Here **compulsory** means you **have to** fill in the survey / list of questions.



Our discussion with Stats NZ about the infringement policy was our **submission.**



A **submission** is when people say what they think as part of a consultation.



Stats NZ also talked to us about a report about disability data.



We told Stats NZ how disability organisations use data to speak up for disabled people.



We talked about how changes to the way data is collected could make it harder for the DPO Coalition to use data to speak up for what people need.



Stats NZ also talked to us about child **poverty statistics**.



Poverty is when people do not have enough money to live.



Statistics are numbers that tell us information.



Stats NZ listened to our feedback.

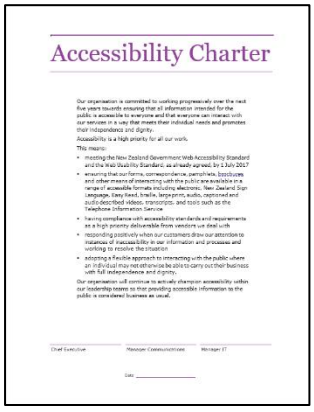
We will keep building a good relationship with Stats NZ.

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People

We met with Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People in March 2026.



We talked about reviewing the **Accessibility Charter**.


Accessibility Charter

Our organisation is committed to working progressively over the next five years towards ensuring that all information intended for the public is accessible to everyone and that everyone can interact with our services in a way that meets their individual needs and promotes their independence and dignity.

Accessibility is a high priority for all our work.

This means:

- meeting the New Zealand Government Web Accessibility Standard and the Web Usability Standard, as already agreed, by 1 July 2017
- ensuring that our forms, correspondence, pamphlets, brochures and other means of presenting with the public are available in a range of accessible formats including electronic, New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, braille, large-print, audio, captioned and audio-described videos, transcripts, and tools such as the Telephone Information Service
- having compliance with accessibility standards and requirements as a high priority deliverable from vendors we deal with
- responding positively when our customers draw our attention to instances of inaccessibility in our information and processes and working to resolve the situation
- adopting a flexible approach to interacting with the public where an individual may not otherwise be able to carry out their business with full independence and dignity.

Our organisation will continue to actively champion accessibility within our leadership teams so that providing accessible information to the public is considered business as usual.

Chief Executive | Manager Communications | Manager IT

Date: _____

The **Accessibility Charter** is a document that says what organisations will do to support accessibility.



The Accessibility Charter was signed on 30 July 2014.

We talked about the important history of this charter.



We will work with Whaikaha to update the charter.

We want the charter to be:



- short
- clear
- focused on the most important things.



We also met with Whaikaha in May 2026.



We talked about how we can have more Māori in the **Independent Monitoring Mechanism**.



The **Independent Monitoring Mechanism** checks how well Aotearoa New Zealand is doing at following the UNCRPD.



Whaikaha invited 2 Māori members of the DPO Coalition to come to a hui / meeting.

Whaikaha
Ministry of Disabled People

The hui will be with:



- Whaikaha
- Māori DPOs



- other key rōpū / groups.



The DPO Coalition chose who would speak for them in this mahi /work.



We hope this work means more Māori voices will be heard in the Independent Monitoring Mechanism.

We also met with Whaikaha leaders to talk about other important issues.



We talked about how the **fuel crisis** is affecting disabled people.



A **fuel crisis** means there is a problem with:

- getting fuel / petrol
- how much fuel / petrol costs.



Whaikaha said it would talk about the fuel crisis with the Minister for Disability Issues.

We also heard about the Whaikaha **stewardship role**.



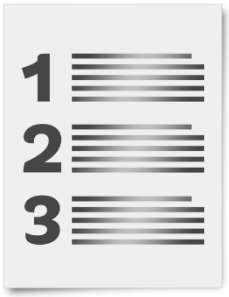


A **stewardship role** means Whaikaha gives advice to the Minister for Disability Issues about Government:

- plans
- decisions
- rules.



Whaikaha also supports other Government agencies to serve disabled people better.



Whaikaha also showed us their **policy work programme**.



A **policy** here is a plan that says what the Government is going to do.



A **work programme** means a list of work an organisation plans to do.

Public Health Agency



We had a meeting with the Public Health Agency in March 2026 to talk about **Guiding Principles**.

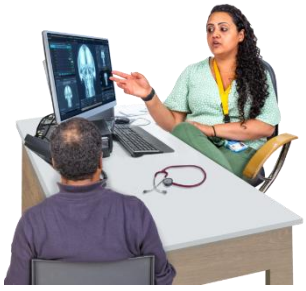


Guiding Principles are important ideas that let people decide how to do their work.



These Guiding Principles are about:

- **work capacity assessments**
- **recovery**
- **vocational rehabilitation**.





A **work capacity assessment** says what work a person is able to do.







Recovery means getting better after:

- an illness
- an injury
- another health issue.

Vocational rehabilitation means support for someone to get ready to go back to work.

The Guiding Principles will be used by:

- the Ministry of Social Development
- the Accident Compensation Corporation / ACC.





The Guiding Principles are for:

- **general practitioners / GPs**
- nurses
- **physiotherapists.**



A **general practitioner / GP** is a doctor who works in the community.





A **physiotherapist** is a health worker who supports people with:

- movement
- pain
- getting better after an injury.



The Public Health Agency asked us to tell them what we think of the **draft** Guiding Principles.



A **draft** means a document that is not finished yet.



We met again with the Public Health Agency in May 2026.



We told them what we thought about the draft Guiding Principles.

Ministry of Social Development

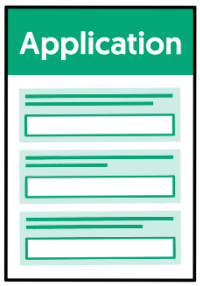
We met with the Ministry of Social Development / **MSD** in May 2026.



MSD is the Government agency that deals with support services like Work and Income.



MSD told us about a special food information form.



The form is for people to know more about how to apply for money for **special food requirements**.





A **special food requirement** means a person needs certain food for:

- health needs
- disability needs.

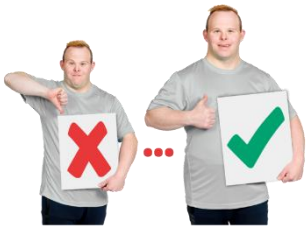


A general practitioner / community doctor can now sign off on special food requirements.



We also heard about a new **Disability Inclusion Guide**.





The **Disability Inclusion Guide** is a guide about designing things that work for disabled people like:

- services
- supports
- products.

Ministry of Social Development and ThinkPlace



In May we talked about the **Disability Employment Support Products Redesign project** with:

- the Ministry of Social Development
- ThinkPlace / an organisation that works with the Government.



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



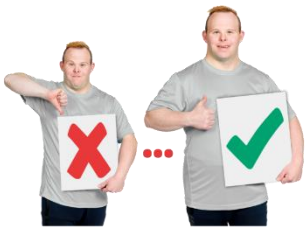
- looking for a job
- trying to keep their job.





Employment barriers are things that:

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



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



The project is looking at disability employment support products like:

- Specialist Employment Service



- Employment Service in Schools
- Mainstream Wage Subsidy



- some parts of:
    - Job Support Funds
    - Training Support Funds



- what **Disability Enterprises** do to support disabled people to get work in **open employment**.



Disability Enterprises are places where only disabled people work.



Open employment means jobs in the community where disabled people work with workers who are not disabled.



You can find out more about the Disability Employment Support Products Redesign project on this website:

tinyurl.com/yrk8yv9z



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

Emergency Management



In May 2026 we met with:

- Whaikaha
- the Wellington Regional **Emergency Management** Office.



Emergency management means planning for an emergency like:

- a flood
- an earthquake
- a storm.





They will run some workshops about emergency plans.



The workshops will support disabled people to make emergency plans for themselves.

Electoral Commission



The Electoral Commission runs elections in Aotearoa New Zealand.



We met with the Electoral Commission in May 2026 to talk about the 2026 **General Election**.



A **General Election** is when people vote for who they want in Parliament.



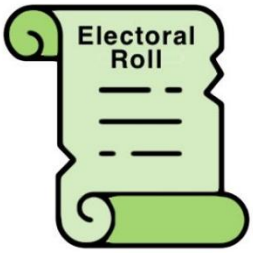
The Electoral Commission told us about Access 2026 which is the draft Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election.



Access 2026 says how they will make the election more accessible.



The Electoral Commission also told us about what they are doing to ge more people **enrolled** to vote.



Enrolled means you are signed up to vote.



They also told us about their plans to update how they run elections.



The Electoral Commission will talk directly to different communities about voting in the 2026 General Election.

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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