

# Making Disability Rights Real

## 2014 to 2019



A report by the  
Independent Monitoring Mechanism  
of the Disability Convention

June 2020

Easy Read summary



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## Before you start



This is a long document.



While it is written in Easy Read 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
- have someone help you to understand it.

# The Making Disability Rights Real report



The **Independent Monitoring Mechanism** has written Making Disability Rights Real.

The Independent Monitoring Mechanism is called the **IMM** for short.



Read more about the IMM on **page 11**.



This report is about disabled New Zealanders and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an international agreement that the New Zealand Government has signed.



The short name for it is the **Disability Convention**.



The **Disability Convention** says what the New Zealand Government should do to make sure disabled people:



- have the same rights as everybody else
- can have a good life.



The **Making Disability Rights Real** is a report about:

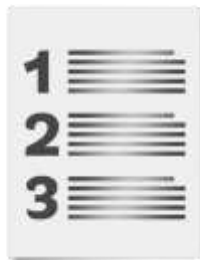
- if the Government is following what the Disability Convention says



- if disabled people are getting their rights in New Zealand



- what the Government is doing to make sure disabled people get their rights



- what things the Government still needs to do to make sure disabled people get their rights.





**Rights** are things that you should get to live a good life.

For example everyone has a right to things like:

- housing
- being kept safe
- having enough food to eat.





We talked to lots of people to find out if disabled people are getting their rights in New Zealand.



We talked to:

- disabled people



- family / whānau of disabled people



- people that work with disabled people.



This Easy Read book has the **main messages** from our report.



You can read the full report at this website:

[www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/making-disability-rights-real-2014-2019](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/making-disability-rights-real-2014-2019)

# What is the Independent Monitoring Mechanism?



The **Independent Monitoring Mechanism** looks at what the Government is doing to make sure disabled people are getting their rights in New Zealand.



The Independent Monitoring Mechanism is called the **IMM** for short.



The IMM makes sure the Government is doing a good job for disabled people.

The IMM is 3 groups that work together and include the:



- Human Rights Commission



- Disabled People's Organisations Coalition – also called DPO Coalition for short.



- Office of the Ombudsman

There is more information about these organisations on the next pages.

# The Human Rights Commission



The Human Rights Commission is New Zealand's human rights organisation.



The Commission:

- promotes human rights
- protects human rights
- checks that all New Zealanders are getting their human rights.



If disabled people are not getting their human rights they can make a complaint to the Commission.

# The Disabled People's Organisation Coalition

DPO  
COALITION

The DPO Coalition is a group of Disabled People's Organisations.



DPO is short for Disabled People's Organisations.



The DPO Coalition is where DPOs can:

- talk to each other
- have a strong voice on issues that affect disabled people.





The DPOs that belong to the DPO Coalition are:



Blind Citizens NZ

- Balance Aotearoa
- Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated



- Deaf Aotearoa



Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

- Disabled Persons' Assembly New Zealand Incorporated



Kāpō Māori Aotearoa  
New Zealand Inc.

- Kāpō Māori Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated



Muscular Dystrophy  
New Zealand

- Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand Incorporated



- People First New Zealand / Ngā Tangata Tuatahi.



# The Office of the Ombudsman



The Office of the Ombudsman deals with complaints about government organisations.



The Office of the Ombudsman can:

- look into complaints
- give advice.



You can contact the Ombudsman if you are having a problem with a government agency.

## More information about this report



This is the third report the IMM has written.



Some things have got better for disabled people since our last report.

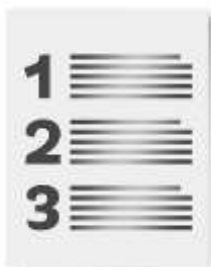
These are things like:



- different parts of the Government working together better



- more chances for disabled people to be part of making changes.



But there is still **a lot** of work for the Government to do so that disabled people get their rights.



We think that the Government needs to work on 6 important areas the most.



These important areas are:

- education
- housing
- getting information about disabled people and their needs
- making information accessible
- jobs
- **seclusion and restraint.**





**Seclusion** is when:

- someone is put in a place on their own
- they cannot leave when they want to.



**Restraint** is when someone is stopped from doing something.

**Restraints** can be things like:

- someone being tied to a bed or chair
- given medicine to stop someone doing something.



We know that things are often worse for:



- disabled Māori
- disabled Pacific people.

The next parts of this book are about making disability rights real for:



- disabled Māori
- disabled Pacific people.



- the 6 important areas that need work

- the most important things to do for each area



- how soon the work needs to happen for each area.

## Disabled Māori



Māori often do **not** get all their human rights.



Things are even worse for disabled Māori.



There are things that stop disabled Māori from fully taking part in their:

- communities
- country.



These things need to change for disabled Māori to have better chances in life.



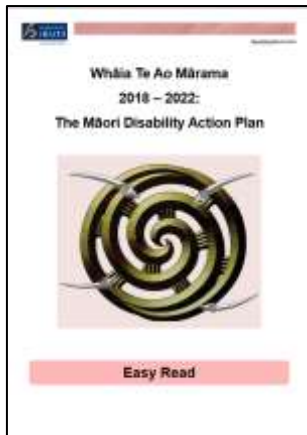
Māori need to be part of:

- making decisions about their own lives
- setting up new ways of doing things.



Māori also need resources so they can come up with their own answers to problems.





**Whāia Te Ao Mārama** is the Māori Disability Action Plan.

**Whāia Te Ao Mārama** is trying to make sure that:



- disabled Māori are part of making health and disability services better



- there are more disability support services that care about **te ao Māori**.

**Te ao Māori** is the Māori world.



We still need much better information about how things are for disabled Māori.

# Disabled Pacific People



Pacific disabled people have a lot of the same problems as Māori disabled people.



Getting the right health and disability services can be hard for anyone.



It is even harder when services:

- do not speak your language
- do not understand your culture.



This is what it is like for many for Pacific disabled people.



**Faiva Ora** is the National Pasifika Disability Plan.

**Faiva Ora** has been changed so it is more up to date.



The IMM hopes **Faiva Ora** will make it easier for disabled Pacific people to:

- get the services they need
- get their rights
- be part of making services better.

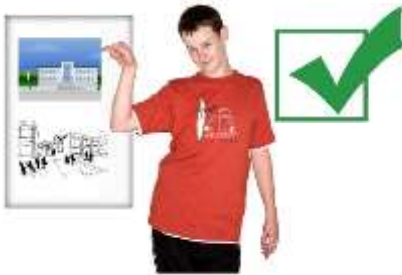


We need better information about how things are for Pacific disabled people.

# Education



We think changes in education need to happen **now**.



The law says that young people should be able to go to any school they want to go to.



But the law does **not** say what schools must do to be **accessible**.



If something is **accessible** it means disabled people are able to use it.



There have been a lot of changes in education.



Some things have got better like:



- there are more support staff
- people are working together better



- some buildings are more accessible.



Disabled people think that more things need to change to make education better for disabled students.

## What needs to change?



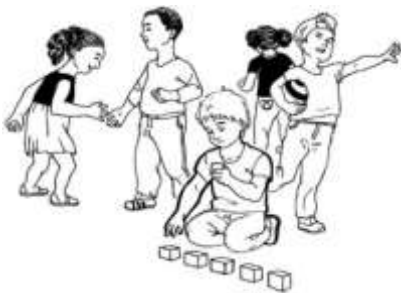
There should be a law that schools must be accessible for disabled students.



Schools need enough money to make sure they work for all students.



Disabled people should be part of deciding what needs to change in education.



Changes need to be made to make sure that all disabled children can take part in education.

# Housing



Changes in housing need to happen **now**.

## What is it like now?



There is no law to stop disabled people from living where they choose to live.



But there are lots of reasons people cannot find a home in the place they want to live.





This can be because of things like:

- housing costs too much money
- housing is not accessible
- people do **not** have the support they need.



A lot of **state housing** is **not** accessible.



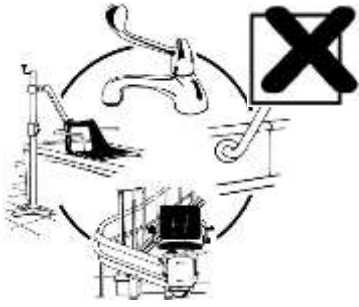
**State housing** is houses that the Government owns.

The Government rents **state housing** to the people who need it most.



People have to wait a long time to get state housing.





Many **landlords** will not change the houses they rent out to make them more accessible for disabled people.



**Landlords** are people who:

- own houses
- charge people money to live in them.



## What needs to change?

There should be a law that all new housing has to meet **universal design standards**.



**Universal Design** is about making things accessible for as many people as possible.



**Universal Design standards** are a list of things that make a home accessible for as many people as possible.

# Seclusion and restraint



We think changes to **seclusion** and **restraint** need to happen **right now**.



**What is it like now?**

Seclusion and restraint are used more often against Māori people.



Seclusion and restraint happen in:

- prisons
- health and disability **secure units**.



People that live in **secure units** are locked in and **cannot** leave.



Sometimes secure units use seclusion or restraint even when there are other things they could try first.



**Intervention and support units** are where prisons put prisoners who they think may hurt themselves.

In **Intervention and support units** prisoners are:



- watched on camera all the time.
- can be alone for 22 to 24 hours a day.



This is against the rules of how disabled prisoners should be treated.



There is a project called **Zero seclusion 2020** to try and make sure seclusion and restraint stops.



It is not likely that all seclusion and restraint will be stop in 2020.

## What needs to change?



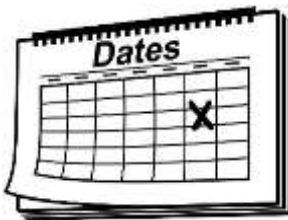
Seclusion and restraint should not happen as much as it does now.



The Government needs to make sure that seclusion and restraint stops happening.



Seclusion should not be used at all in health and disability facilities.

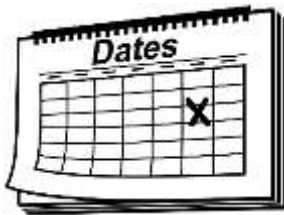


There needs to be a plan to stop using seclusion.

# Information about disabled people and what they need



The Government needs good information about disabled people to be able to plan to make things better for disabled people.



We think changes need to happen in this area **in the next 6 months**.

## What is it like now?



The Government does **not** collect enough useful information about:

- disabled people in New Zealand
- what disabled people need to live a good life.





Not having good information about disabled people makes it hard for the Government to make:

- good decisions
- good plans.



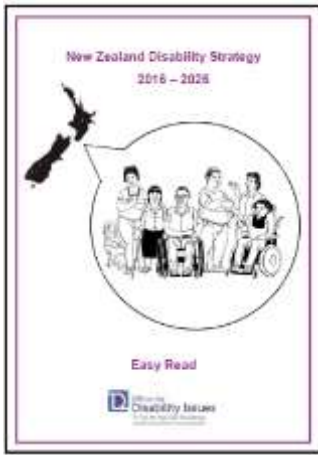
Not having good information also makes it hard:

- for service providers to know what services disabled people need

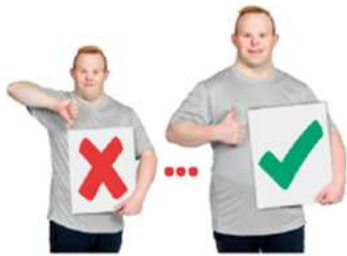


- to see if New Zealand is getting better at following what the Disability Convention says.





The Government has agreed to get information to see if we are getting better following the **New Zealand Disability Strategy**.



The **Disability Strategy** is a document that helps us to:

- know how to make things better for disabled people in New Zealand
- make sure that we are following the Disability Convention.



The **Disability Data and Evidence Working Group** was set up in 2015 to get better information about disabled people.



## What needs to change?



We need to start doing the **Disability Survey** again after every **Census**.



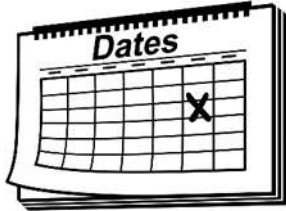
The Disability Survey needs to start again after the **Census** in 2023.



The **Census** is a big survey that everyone in the country has to answer.

The **Census** happens every 5 years.

# Making information accessible



We think changes need to happen in this area **in the next 6 months**.



**What is it like now?**

Disabled people miss out on:

- getting **accessible information**
- saying what they think and being listened to.



**Accessible information** is when somebody gets information in a way that they can understand.



Not having accessible information stops disabled people from taking part fully in their:

- communities
- country.



Some parts of the Government have agreed to an **Accessibility Charter**.



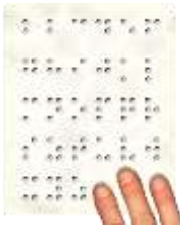
The **Accessibility Charter** says that information needs to be made accessible for disabled people.



The Government may make a new law that tells people what they have to do to make information accessible.

## What needs to change?

The IMM thinks people should be able to get information from the Government in accessible formats like:



- New Zealand Sign Language
- Braille
- Easy Read
- a recording people can listen to.



Disabled people should be able to say:

- what they think
- what they need in a way that works for them.



To make this work:



- all the parts of the Government need to work together
- there should be a law to tell people what they need to do to make information more accessible.



# Employment



We think changes need to happen in employment in **the next year**.



**Employment** is to do with getting and having a job.

## What is it like now?



A lot of disabled people are likely to:

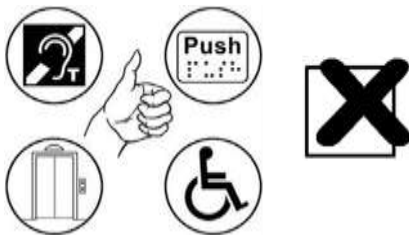
- have more trouble finding a job than people without disabilities
- earn less money than people without disabilities.





Some of the reasons why disabled people do not get the same chances is because of things like:

- bosses do not see what disabled people can do



- many workplaces are not accessible



- workplace support that does not work for everyone.





If more disabled people had jobs it would:

- give disabled people more money to have a good life
- give disabled people more choices in life
- be good for New Zealand.



There are some good things happening like:

- chances for disabled people to try out jobs
- supporting bosses to give disabled people work.





New Zealand does not spend very much money supporting disabled people to get jobs.



### **What needs to change?**

There should be a plan to make finding work fair for disabled people.



A plan would help groups all across New Zealand to work together on this.

## Who you can contact about this report



### Human Rights Commission



Phone us for free on: **0800 496 877**



Text us: **0210 236 4253**



Email us: **infoline@hrc.co.nz**



Visit our website: **www.hrc.co.nz**

Fax us: **09 377 3593**



If you send us a fax at the top of the page please write:

**Attention: Infoline**

Post us a letter to:

**Human Rights Commission**

**PO Box 10424**

**The Terrace**

**Wellington 6011**



**DPO Coalition**



Email us: **[us-dpo@groups.io](mailto:us-dpo@groups.io)**

## Ombudsman



Phone us for free on: **0800 802 602**



Email:

**info@ombudsman.parliament.nz**



Website:

**www.ombudsman.parliament.nz**



Fax: **04 471 2254**

Post us a letter to:

**Ombudsman**

**PO Box 10152**

**Wellington 6143**





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