



What it is like for young disabled people who have had to live away from home under Section 141 and 142 of the ‘Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989’.

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Easy Read

Why did The Donald Beasley Institute write this report?



The Ministry of Social Development (**MSD**) asked the Donald Beasley Institute to do some research and write a report.



MSD want this report to be a part of a project they are working on called:

Disabled children: voluntary out-of-home placement review.



The New Zealand Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 says what work is being done in New Zealand on disability issues.



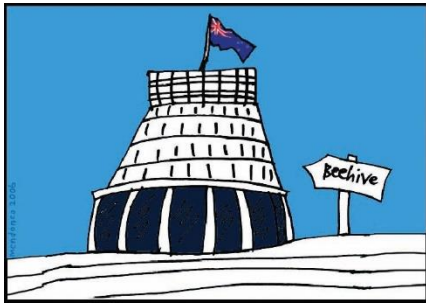
There is an action in the Plan that is about the Disabled Children Project.



This action is **Priority 6(d)**.

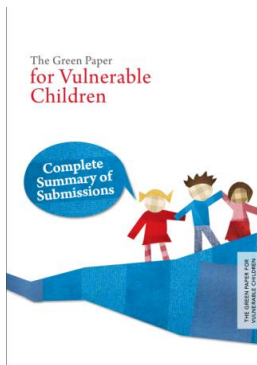


Priority means that it is important.



Section 141 of the **Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989** lets families ask the Government to find somewhere else for their disabled child to live.

The Disabled Children Project looked at 2 reports:



- 2011 Green paper for vulnerable children



- 2013 Select Committee looking at the 2016 Vulnerable Children Bill.

The reports said that sections 141 and 142 were:



1. out of date and went against the UN Disability Convention



2. Do not match what we know about the best way to do things.

The Donald Beasley Institute were asked to:



1. Look at Sections 141 and 142 of the **Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989**



2. Talk to young disabled people who have lived out of the family home because of Sections 141 and 142 of the **Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989.**



Section 141 means that children or young people live away from the home.

This place is called an out of home placement.



There are many steps that have to happen before a child is placed out of the family home.



The last step is that the family and professionals meet to decide if it is the best thing for the child.



Section 141 only covers disabled children until they turn 17 years old.



This means young people turning 17 have the right to have a say in where they live.



For this project The Donald Beasley Institute talked to 8 young people who lived out of the family home because of Sections 141 and 142.

17 - 30

They were aged between 17 and 30 years old.



All of the young people we talked to stayed living at their out of home places after turning 17 years old.



All of the young people had different levels of independence.

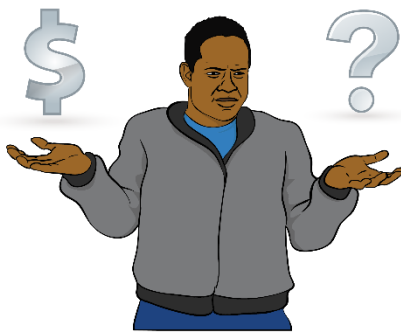


Independence means being able to do things on their own or with little support



All of the young people needed some support with:

- day-to-day living
- looking after money
- doing things outside the home
- finding and keeping a job.



None of the young people we talked to had full time work.



The most important thing for these young people, was to have a relationship with their family.

What did the Donald Beasley Institute find out?

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We found that young disabled people face 3 main problems under Section 141.

The problems were to do with:



1. moving into care



2. what it is like to live away from the family home



3. planning what to do when Section 141 stopped when they turned 17.



1: Moving into care

Most of the young people we talked to:



- did not understand why they were moved away from the family home



- could not remember why they were moved out of the family home.



Some people thought it was because their family was finding it hard to support them.



All the young people said they accepted being moved out of home.



1 person said they felt they had no say in the choice to move them.



2: What it is like to live away from the family home

Part A: Settling in



The young people were asked how they felt when they moved out of the family home.



Some said they felt homesick when they first moved.



Most of the young people said they were happy after they moved.



The young people who moved into boarding schools were happy as they had friends and lots of things to do.



Most of the young people moved around different houses in the 1st or 2nd year of living out of home.



They usually moved to different houses but stayed with the same disability service.



Some people kept moving house a lot as they got older.



Some people were still moving house a lot even after Section 141 stopped for them at age 17.

Part B: Staying part of the family



Most families stayed in touch with their young people after they moved out of the family home.



The young people said how important their families were to them.



Family support was especially important, when they had to move house a lot.



Family support made it easier to deal with all the changes.

3: Planning what to do when Section 141 stops



When young disabled people turn 17, Section 141 stops.

The Donald Beasley Institute wanted to find out:



- how much people knew about Section 141 stopping when they turned 17



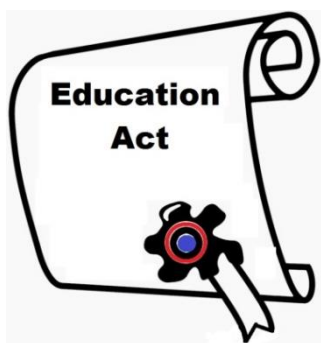
- what support the young people were given when they turned 17 and Section 141 stopped.



The young people we spoke to did not know what it meant not to be under Section 141 anymore.



Instead the focus was on planning to support the young disabled person through the last years of school and into adulthood.



This is because the Education Act says that people with learning disability can stay at school until they are 21.



The young people we spoke to talked about what was important to them, looking into the future.



They said they wanted to know about:

- work choices
- how to keep growing their skills so they can work towards doing more things for themselves.



1 young person said they felt there was no plan in place to support them to be independent from their disability service provider.



This is a problem because this person was already more independent than the other young people we spoke to.



We saw that when a young person went to live within a support service, they ended up relying on the service for everything they needed.

Key messages from the project



Our study was small but we found some important messages from the young people who took part.



1. There should be an independent advocacy service for young people:

- when they are under Section 141
- when people turn 17 and Section 141 stops
- so they can have an independent advocate.





An independent advocate is someone who speaks up for a person's rights and what they want or need.



An independent advocate needs to be skilled to make sure the young person is getting the right support.



2. All young people living in an out of home placement should have a good plan about what is going to happen when they turn 17.



The plans needs to be made with the young person.

The young person needs to understand everything in their plan.



The young person should know their rights under New Zealand laws and the UN Disability Convention.



Steps should be taken to make sure young people can have education into their adult years.



3. Good family relationships are important



The young people in this project said their families were very important.



This shows how important it is for families and services to work together.



If families had the right support early their child's life, they might not have had to have their child placed out of the family home.



This information has been translated into Easy Read by People First New Zealand Inc., Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

