

**Summary of findings –
Monitoring of
My Experiences My Rights:
Disability Supports and Services**

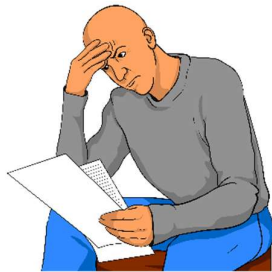


**Report 5:
Recommendations
Published: February 2026**

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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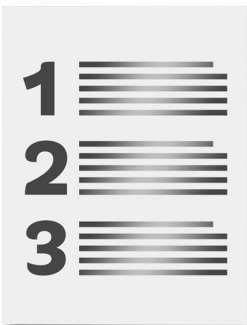


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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of findings from **research** done by the **Donald Beasley Institute**.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the full document
- tells you the main ideas.



Research is when a lot of information about something is put together to learn about it.



The **Donald Beasley Institute** is a place that researches things to do with disability.

It is based in Dunedin in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In this Easy Read the Donald Beasley Institute will be called the **DBI**.



This is the fifth report of what the DBI found out from their research.



This report is a summary of the **recommendations** from the other 4 reports.

A **recommendation** is something that would be good to do.



In this report the DBI uses the **Kāi Tahu** way of speaking te reo Māori / Māori language.



Kāi Tahu is an iwi / tribe in Te Waipounamu / the South Island.

Using Kāi Tahu words means they use the letter k instead of the letters ng.



For example Kāi Tahu say tākata whaikaha Māori instead of tāngata whaikaha Māori when they are talking about Māori disabled people.



In this Easy Read Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People will be called **Whaikaha**.

What was the research about?



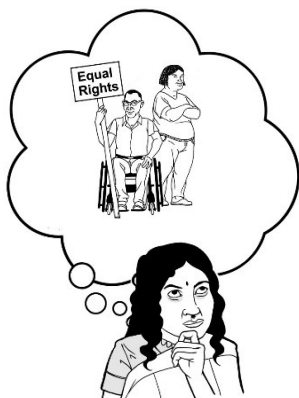
The **Disabled People's Organisations Coalition / DPO** asked the DBI to start doing this research in 2021.



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



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



The DPO wanted to know how well the New Zealand Government was making the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** work in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / UNCRPD** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.

It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same **rights** as everybody else.



Rights are things everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.

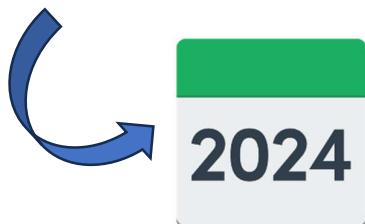


The DPO Coalition asked the DBI to research what disability supports and services are like in New Zealand.



Many big changes happened to disability supports and services when DBI was doing the research.

These changes include:



- Whaikaha starting in 2022
- changes in disability support services in March 2024
- changes to what Whaikaha can do in August 2024.



The research was done mostly by talking to:

- people who were leaders in the **disability sector**
- disabled people
- whānau / families
- close supporters of disabled people.

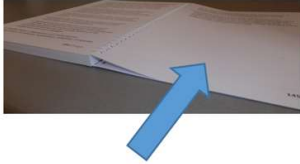


The **disability sector** includes:

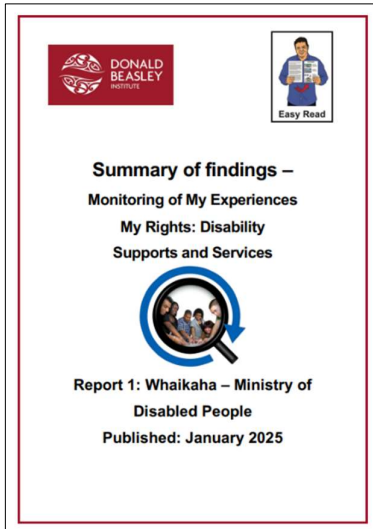
- disability support services
- health services
- government departments.



Summary of the reports



There is information about where you can read the reports on **pages 36 and 37** of this Easy Read.



Report 1: Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People

The first report was about what disabled people and their families thought of Whaikaha.

Report 2: Consultation and engagement



Here **consultation** is when the Government asks people what they think about things the Government is planning to do.



Here **engagement** is all the ways the Government tells people:

- what it is doing
- how to have their say about what the Government does.



The second report was about how well people thought the Government was doing consultation and engagement about disability:

- funding
- support
- services.



Report 3: Disability Support Services



Here **Disability Support Services** means all the ways the Government supports disabled people like paying for:

- equipment like a wheelchair
- homes for disabled people
- support workers.



The third report was about what using Disability Support Services was like for disabled people.

Report 4: Enabling Good Lives



Enabling Good Lives is a different way of thinking about disability support.

Enabling Good Lives is about having:

- choice
- control
- the support you:
 - need
 - want
- a good life.



The fourth report was about:

- what people thought about Enabling Good Lives
- the effect of Enabling Good Lives on disability supports and services.



Recommendations



In the reports there were 30 recommendations to make disability supports and services better.



The researchers grouped the recommendations into 4 **themes**.



Here a **theme** is a way of grouping information together to make 1 main idea.

Diverse disabled leadership



Participants wanted disability supports and services that were:

- designed with disabled people
- led by disabled people.



Here **participants** are people who answered questions as part of the research.



They said disabled leaders should have a lot of different **lived experience**.



Here **lived experience** means:

- the things you have:
 - done
 - had happen to you
- your background like your:
 - disability
 - way of life
 - age
 - **gender.**



Gender is if you are:

- a man
- a woman
- another gender like nonbinary.

Genuine partnership

Participants wanted good relationships between:

- the Government
- and
- the disability community.



They said a good relationship would be when everyone:

- is listened to
- shares information so everyone can understand what is happening
- works together to make things right
- can **respect** the lived experiences people have.





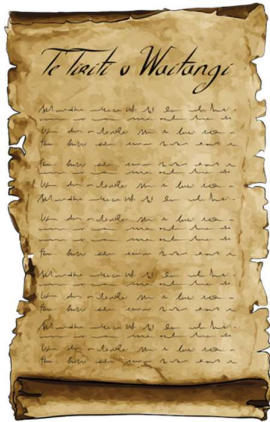
Here **respect** means understanding that everyone has lived experience that:

- is different
- is important
- means they know a lot about what works for them.

Rights-based foundation



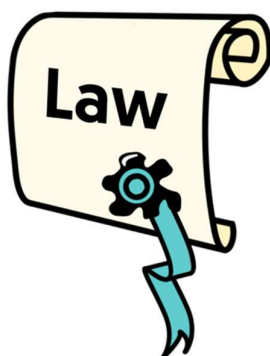
Participants said that human rights should be an important part of every decision about disability supports and services.



Participants said the Government should remember what it has promised under:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi**
- the UNCRPD
- the **New Zealand Disability Strategy**
- the **Health and Disability Commissioner Code of Rights.**





Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi is an important agreement between:

- Māori
- and
- the Crown.

The purpose of Te Tiriti is to:

- protect Māori:
 - rights
 - **taonga**
- keep **peace and order**
- set up government.

Peace and order means to follow laws / rules.



Taonga means treasures such as:

- land / rivers
- te reo Māori / Māori language
- objects like
pounamu / greenstone
- traditional food growing places
- spiritual ideas
- ways of life.

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



The **Health and Disability**

Commissioner Code of Rights

says what rights people have when they:

- use disability services
- get health care.

Transformative policy

Participants said the Government needs to make big changes to its **policies** about disability.



Here **policies** are rules the Government makes.



The Government needs to change:

- how it thinks about disability support
- the sort of disability support people can get
- how it spends money on disability support.



Participants said that all disability supports and services should be based on Enabling Good Lives.

Priorities



Priorities are the most important things to do.



The recommendations have a lot of ideas to make disability supports and services better.



These are the ideas that the DBI thinks:

- are the most important
- should be done first.

Community development



The Government should **invest** in building communities of:

- disabled people
- tākata whaikaha / Māori disabled people
- Pacific disabled people
- whānau / families / aiga
- supporters.



Invest means to spend:

- money
- time
- effort.



People in these communities could:

- support each other
- learn together
- speak up for each other.



Intersectional lived experience

Intersectional means thinking about all the things that make up the life of a person.



Leaders in the disability sector should have a lot of different lived experiences.



This means making it easier for lots of different people to become leaders.



Disabled person led monitoring



Disabled people should lead the work to check how well disability supports and services are working.

Engagement



The Government should consult with disabled people:

- early
- often.



The Government should listen to what disabled people say.

Cross agency approach



A lot of different parts of the Government do things that affect disabled people.

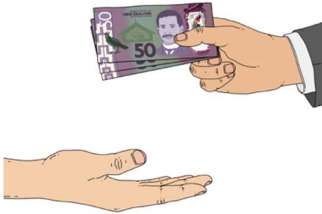


All parts of the Government should work together to make things better for disabled people.

Equitable funding



Equitable means something is fair for everyone.



The Government needs to make sure it spends enough money on disability so that:

- Whaikaha can do its work well
- disabled people can get better supports and services
- more people can get disability supports and services.



Inclusive support

The Government needs to make sure disability supports and services are:

- **inclusive**
- **strengths based.**





Here **inclusive** means something:

- works for everyone
- meets a lot of different needs.



Here **strengths based** means
paying attention to what people:

- can do
- are good at.

Disabled person led training



There should be training about disability for people who work:

- for the Government
- in disability services.



This training should be led by disabled people.

Appropriate care

Everyone should be able to get disability supports and services that are right for their:

- age
- culture.





Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.



Some different cultures in Aotearoa New Zealand are:

- Māori culture
- Pacifica culture
- Deaf culture.



Accessible information

Everyone should be able to get information about disability supports and services that is easy to:

- find
- understand.



This picture shows how the priorities fit together with the themes.





In September 2025 the Government made some changes to disability support funding.



These changes mean disabled people have more choices about how they use their disability support funding.



These changes are a move in the right direction.



There is still a lot of work to do to make disability supports and services better.



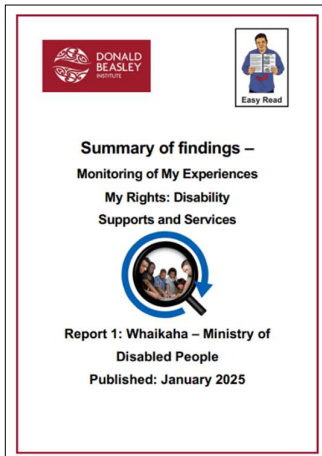
It is important that the Government pays attention to all the recommendations in this report.

More information



You can read the full report on the DBI **website** at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yn5sjpdk>



You can read Part 1 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2z6er67s>



You can read Part 2 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2zb7v3xr>



You can read Part 3 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4k88we75>



You can read Part 4 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2apjajxf>



For more information about what DBI does you can go to the DBI **website** at:

www.donaldbeasley.org.nz



You can contact DBI by **phone** on:

0800 878 839



It does not cost money to phone this number.



You can **email** DBI at:

admin@donaldbeasley.org.nz



This information has been written by the Donald Beasley Institute.



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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