



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



**Report 1: Whaikaha – Ministry of
Disabled People
Published: January 2025**

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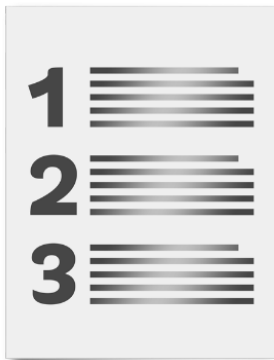


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What is this Easy Read about?



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



A **summary** is:

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



Research is when we:

- look at things that have happened
- try to find ways to do things better.



The **Donald Beasley Institute** researches about disability.

They are based in Dunedin in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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



This is the first report of what the DBI found out from monitoring supports and services.



This report is about what disabled people and their families thought of Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.

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

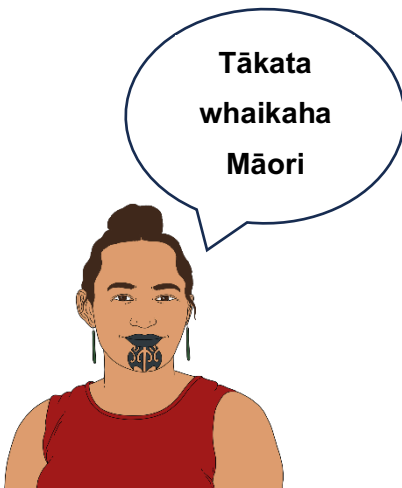


In this report the DBI uses the **Kai Tahu** way of speaking te reo Māori / Māori language.



Kai Tahu is an iwi / tribe in Te Waiponamu / the South Island.

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



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

What was the research about?



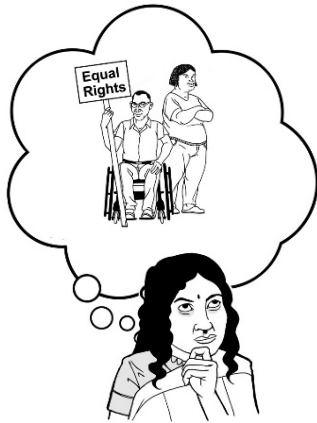
The **Disabled People's Organisation Coalition / DPO** asked the DBI to start doing this research in 2021.



The **Disabled People's Organisations Coalition / DPO Coalition** 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 the country.



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 started happening 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
- what Whaikaha can do was changed 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.



The interviews happened between:

- late in 2022
- and
- the middle of 2023.

Other research was done through:

- one-on-one interviews
- **focus groups**
- **questionnaires.**



A **focus group** is a group of people who come together to talk about a thing they have in common.

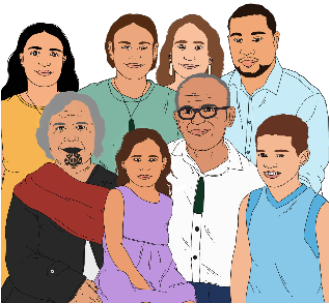


A **questionnaire** is a type of survey where somebody answers questions.

The people who took part were:

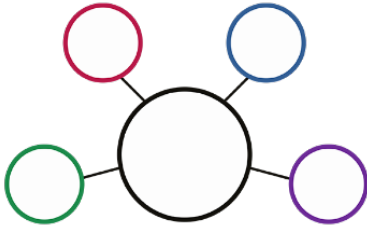


- disabled people
- whānau / aiga / family of disabled people
- support people.



What were the findings of the research?

Structure



Here **structure** means how something is put together.



People who took part in the research said the foundations / ideas that make up Whaikaha were not always respected.



The foundations of Whaikaha are:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi**
- the UNCRPD
- **Enabling Good Lives / EGL.**





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.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi / 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 practices
- spiritual ideas
- ways of life.



People who took part in the research said a **partnership** was important between:



- tākata whaikaha Māori / disabled Māori
- disabled people
- the Crown / government.



Here a **partnership** means people working together to make things happen.

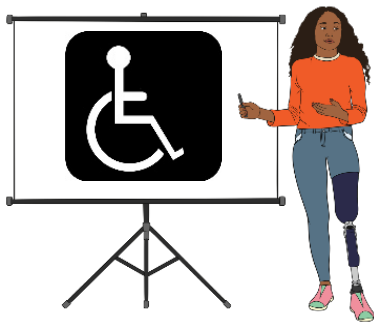


People who took part in the research said people in the partnership must be given the things they needed to do a good job.



This was so they could:

- make decisions
- share power.



People who took part in the research also said **disability culture** should be:

- promoted / talked about
- celebrated.



Disability culture is disabled people:

- sharing a way of thinking
- doing things together
- being proud of who they are.



Operations and functions

People who took part in the research said Whaikaha must do what the disabled community needs.



Some people who took part in the research were hopeful about Whaikaha looking after disability supports and services / DSS.



They wanted DSS to be:

- given what it needed to work
- focused on making things fair for disabled people.



People who took part in the research talked about Whaikaha looking after disability issues for the whole government.



They thought this could support people to think about disability better.



People who took part in the research said they were worried that other government agencies would:

- not look after disability issues as well as they needed to be

and



- tell Whaikaha to work on them instead.



People who took part in the research said they were excited about what could be done with Enabling Good Lives / EGL at Whaikaha.



Bad and good things

The problem most people talked about was not having enough accessible information about:



- what Whaikaha does
- and
- what support Whaikaha could give to:
 - disabled people
 - whānau / family.



People who took part in the research said they were worried a new government:

- would affect what Whaikaha does
- might not let Whaikaha keep doing what they wanted to.





People who took part in the research said that people left out of what Whaikaha does were those with:

- psychosocial / mental health disabilities
- **chronic health conditions.**



Chronic health conditions means health conditions that last:

- for a long time
- your whole life.



Some people who took part in the research said Whaikaha did a good job:

- giving emergency response information like what to do in a flood
- dealing with **complaints**.



A **complaint** is when you tell someone:

- something is wrong
- and
- how you want it to be fixed.



People who took part in the research said they wanted Whaikaha to be a strong voice for the disability community.

What are the recommendations?

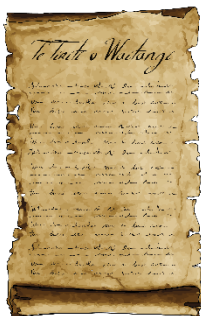


People who took part in the research gave **recommendations** on what Whaikaha could do.



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

People who took part in the research said Whaikaha must use the principles / ideas from:



- the **social and human rights models of disability**
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi
- Enabling Good Lives / EGL
- the UNCRPD.





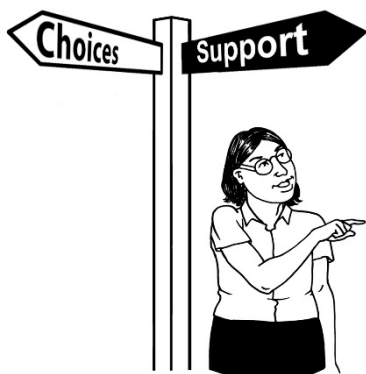
A **model of disability** means a way of understanding:

- what disability is
- the best ways of making sure disabled people can have good lives.



The **social and human rights models of disability** is understanding that disabled people have:

- equal rights
- choice of what they want to do in their lives
- control over their lives
- are included in everything.





People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should:

- make sure Enabling Good Lives / EGL is used by everyone in government.
- work in partnership with disability communities
- have good leaders who are:
 - tākata whaikaha / disabled Māori
 - and
 - whānau hauā / Māori with disabilities and their whānau / families.





People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should:

- build the disability community
- bring the disability community together.



People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should support changing the way everyone thinks about disability.

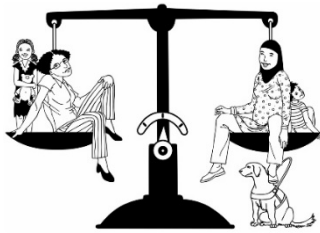


This change in thinking should be from bad to good.



People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should make better:

- policy / rules
- legislation / law.



This is so disabled people have **equitable outcomes**.



An **equitable outcome** means thinking about:

- the different challenges people live with
- and
- how to make things things fair for everyone.



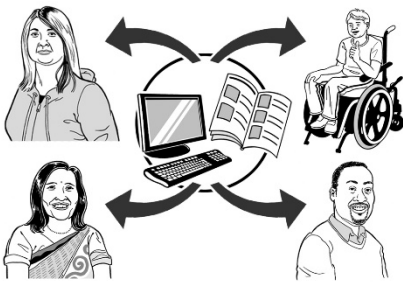


People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should include:

- people with psychosocial disability / mental health disability
- people with chronic health conditions
- disabled people over 65 years of age.

People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should:

- be properly funded
- have people working for them who know what it is like to live with a disability.



People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should be the one place disabled people can go to for:

- information
- support.



People who took part in the research said Whaikaha should provide good information about what it:

- does
- can offer to:
 - disabled people
 - whānau / aiga / family
 - support people.





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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