

“I am here”

The Article 19 Project



Easy read summary



CCS
disability action
Including all people



TE HUNGA HAUA MAURI MO NGA TANGATA KATOA

“I am here”

The Article 19 Project



This report is about the Article 19 Project.



The project found out how some Disabled people get their rights to:



- be fully included in society
- take part in the community
- to get the support they need
- live in a place they choose
- live with people they choose to live with.



The Disabled people in the project:



- have support to
 - do everyday tasks where they live
 - get around their community
 - understand things



- communicate in different ways like:
 - pointing to pictures
 - smiling
 - moving eyes
 - using computers with head pointers.

Your Rights

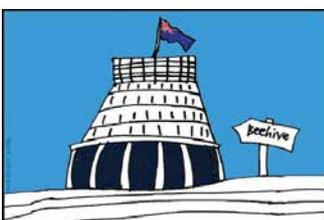


The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

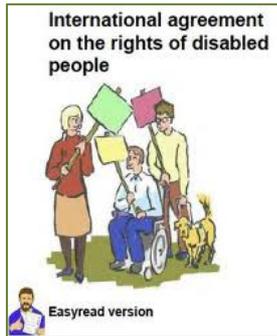


New Zealand has signed an international law about the rights of Disabled people called **'The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'**.

This law is also called the **Disability Convention**.



The **Disability Convention** says what the Government must:



- make sure Disabled people get all their human rights in all areas of their lives
- make sure that everyone works together so that Disabled people get all their human rights.



The Disability Convention is made up of information called **Articles**.

There are 50 Articles. **Article 19** talks about the right to:



- be fully included in society
- choose a place of your own to live
- live with people you choose to live with
- take part in the community
- get the services that meet your needs.





Article 19 says that the Government must make sure that Disabled people have the same choices as everyone else about how they live and being part of the community.



The Government must make sure that:

- all new laws and policies work with what is in the 50 Articles of the Disability Convention



- Disabled people get all their rights



- courts use the Articles when they make decisions.

The Article 19 Project



About the Project

CCS Disability Action talked to some Disabled people and their families about getting their rights:

- to be fully included in society
- to take part in the community.

CCS Disability Action asked the Donald Beasley Institute to help find out more about how some Disabled people live. Things like:

- where people live
- who they live with
- meeting friends
- going to the shops
- doing things in their community.



The Donald Beasley Institute helped the Disabled people in the project tell their stories in their own way.



CCS Disability Action found out that the main issues for the Disabled people in the project were:



- not being included in society

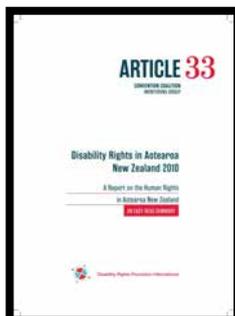


- not having real choice about where to live and who to live with.



Other reports that talk about Disabled people not being included are:

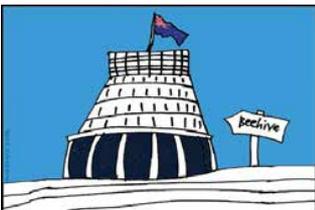
- The New Zealand Office for Disability Issues report to the United Nations



- The Convention Coalition Monitoring Group reports **called the Disability Rights in Aotearoa New Zealand 2010 and 2012.**

What the Article 19 Project wanted to do

What the project wanted to do was listen to some Disabled people's stories about:



- where they lived
 - who they lived with
 - what they do during the day
 - what support they get.
-
- talk to people in New Zealand, like the Government, about the things that Disabled people said.



- talk to others about Disabled people getting their right to choose where they live and who they live with and to be part of their communities.

There were **5** key things that CCS Disability Action wanted from the Project

The Article 19 project talked to some Disabled people

The Disabled people in the project:



- have support to:
 - do everyday tasks where they live
 - get around their community
 - understand things
- communicate in different ways like:
 - pointing to pictures
 - smiling
 - moving eyes
 - using computers with head pointers.



The **5** key things are:

1. Find out **new things** about why it can be hard to get the right to be part of communities.



2. Make services better



3. Make sure Disabled people needs are met and Disabled people are included in society.



4. Talk to others about what we found out so that they work with Disabled people to make sure that everyone is part of New Zealand



5. Listen to and learn from the stories of the people in the project about being part of their community.

Who took part in the Project



There were **7** men and **5** women from **7** CCS Disability Action groups who took part in the project. The people were:



- aged between **20** years of age to **52** years of age



- 5 people lived with a parent



- 2 people lived alone in a home that they owned or paid rent for



- 2 people lived with physically disabled people in a community group home



- 1 person lived in a community group home with people with an intellectual disability



- 1 person lived with a family under a contract board arrangement



- 1 person lived in a flat with another physically Disabled person who had support from an Independent Living service



- 3 people were not using CCS Disability Action support to access their community.

What the project found out



The people who took part in the project talked about the right to live in a place of their choice.

People talked about:

- family members providing support
- that it is difficult to get the same level of support from someone who is not a family member if you do not live at home





- not knowing about different places where you could live
- that there is not enough choice about where to live



- that some people think that Disabled people who need a lot of support cannot have a home of their own
- staying in the family home because they were scared that they would not be treated as well in a residential home



- having to move away from home when mothers who were the main carers become unwell



- lack of support for parent carers
- the fear that they would not be treated with respect and dignity in their own home and community



- having to share a home with a person that they did not like or want to live with.
- not having enough control around staff entering your room or having your own things



- community group homes not feeling like a home from home, like having things you want in your home, or friends coming to visit



- living on your own and feeling lonely

- feeling good about owning your own home



- living in your own home and feeling part of the community



- living in a community group home and **not** being part of the community



- not getting the right support to meet their needs
- not having enough choice about different support
- not having the same range of services that other people can choose from and get a good service.



The people who took part in the project talked about the right to get the support you need to live a fulfilling life and be included in society



People talked about:

- that after leaving school they felt were not part of their community
- not having a job
- owning their own home and not being involved in their community





- living in a community group home that was 'closed' to them between 9.30am and 3.30pm
- that CCS Disability Action office was an important place where people felt safe
- that CCS Disability Action helped people take part in the community and listened to what Disabled people wanted to talk about



- closing the day base activity and changes to the way support happens made it difficult for people to get together with other Disabled people of their own age



- most people felt they had few friends
- the few friends were mostly their family or family friends or support staff



- one person:
 - ❖ had a partner



- ❖ had a job
- ❖ felt that the day base made them feel they belonged



- ❖ was a member of a club where people who were not Disabled were also members



- people who lived at home with their family talked about having more friends and being more included in the community than people who did not live at home



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- it was helpful when families talked to CCS Disability Action staff about what they wanted



- families who worked well with support staff helped made sure that their son or daughter took part in the community to do the things that they wanted to do



- being part of the community took place through being involved in programmes that took place almost always in a public place, like McDonalds, mall or library



- not many people had the chance to make strong friendships in the community



- not many people were able to make strong relationships in the community when staff were with them

- Most relationships were made when staff were not about.



The people who took part in the project talked about the right to get services and take part in the community. They also talked about services and the community to be welcoming and include Disabled people

People talked about the things that made it hard to take part in the community:



- not having a job



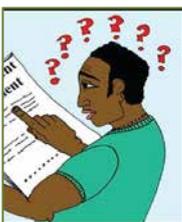
- having all their benefits and not being able to get any more money to get other things that they want and need



- getting into and moving around inside buildings and other people's homes



- not having information in ways that people can read and understand



- people talking in ways that is hard to understand



- not being able to get the right communication technology.

Summary



The Article 19 Project found out that:

the Disabled people in the project are not getting their human rights to:



- be fully included in society



- get the services that meet your needs



- take part in the community



- choose a place of your own to live



- live with people you choose to live with.



The **Article 19 Project** report adds to other reports about Disabled people not getting their rights.

A report prepared for CCS Disability Action

November 2012.

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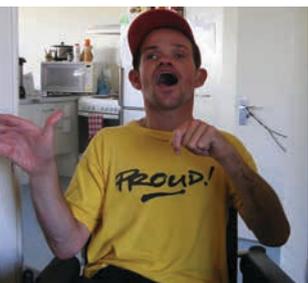
Donald Beasley Institute

www.donaldbeasley.org.nz

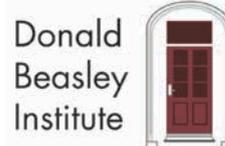


This information has been translated into Easy Read
by People First New Zealand Inc.





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Donald
Beasley
Institute
Disability research
and education

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