

# **The New Zealand Disability Strategy**

**Making a World of Difference  
Whakanui Oranga**



**Easy-to-read Version**

Reprinted June 2003 by the Office for Disability Issues.  
Copies of the New Zealand Disability Strategy are available on request from:

Office for Disability Issues  
P O Box 12 136  
Wellington  
phone: 04 916 3300  
fax: 04 918 0075  
email: [odi@msd.govt.nz](mailto:odi@msd.govt.nz)  
website: [www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz)

# Office for Disability issues

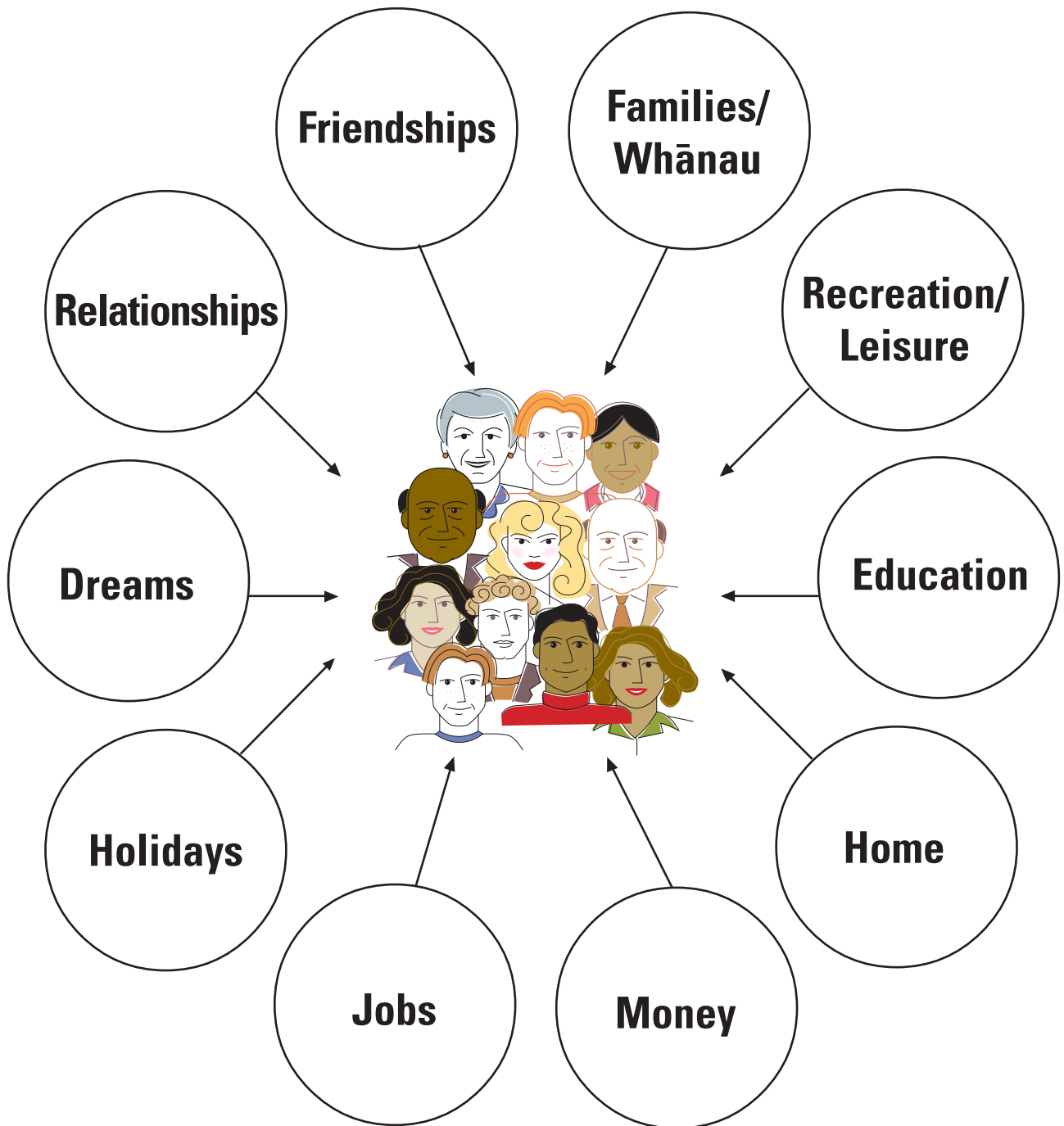
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*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*

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for its involvement in developing this resource.





ALL people want all or some of these things.

BUT

Sometimes this doesn't happen.  
The New Zealand Government is concerned about  
this and wants to change it so:



People are included



People participate



People have a lot of new opportunities  
in their lives.

What does all this mean?



What action will the  
Government take?



The New Zealand Disability  
Strategy is the Government's answer.

The Strategy has 15 objectives  
and actions for all of these.

# Objective 1

Encourage and educate  
the community and society  
to understand, respect and support  
disabled people.



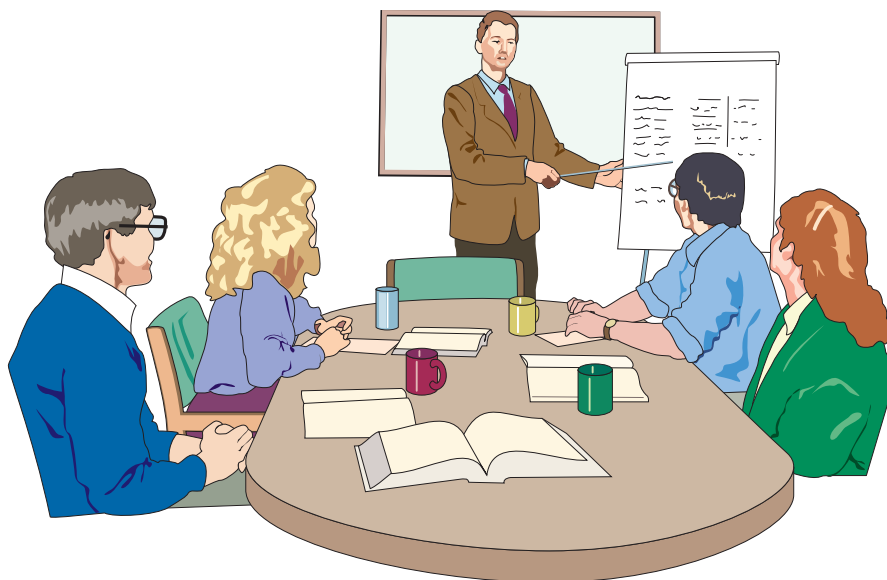
# **Actions**

Encourage and educate the community and society to understand, respect and support disabled people.

- Have education programmes to help people understand.
- Make sure disabled people are asked what they think and asked about their experiences.
- Make sure disabled people's achievements are recognised.
- Encourage people to talk about disability issues.

# Objective 2

Ensure disabled people's rights are understood and promoted.





# Actions

Ensure disabled people's rights are understood and promoted.

- Provide information for everyone on the rights of disabled people.
- Provide education so disabled people understand their rights and can be self-advocates.
- Review Human Rights laws so they help disabled people more.
- Look at how good New Zealand is at making sure disabled people get their rights.
- Look at how people can have independent advocacy.

# Objective 3

Provide the best education for disabled people.



# Actions

Provide the best education for disabled people.

- Make sure every disabled child can go to their local school.
- Make sure disabled people have help to communicate effectively.
- Be sure teachers and educators understand the learning needs of disabled people.
- Make sure disabled people have fair access to the things they need to get the best education.
- Make sure schools meet the needs of disabled students.
- Help disabled people to have further education once school is finished.

# Objective 4

Provide opportunities in employment and make sure disabled people have an adequate income.



# Actions

Provide opportunities in employment and make sure disabled people have an adequate income.

- Provide education and training to help disabled people get jobs.
- Educate employers about the abilities of disabled people.
- Provide information so disabled people know what help they can get.
- Make the move from school to work easier for disabled people.
- Make sure disabled people have the same employment opportunities and rights as everyone else.
- Look at what income disabled people get and make sure it is enough.

# Objective 5

Strengthen the leadership of disabled people.



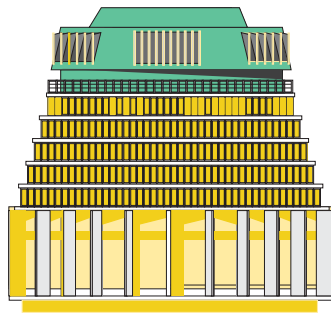
# Actions

Strengthen the leadership of disabled people.

- Involve disabled people in decision-making as service users and in things like service management and planning.
- Help disabled people to help themselves.
- Help advocacy organisations.
- Support leadership and development training for disabled people.
- Identify disabled people who could work with the Government.
- Make sure disabled people and advocacy organisations know how to influence government planning.

# Objective 6

Make sure government organisations, and organisations that get money from the Government, know about and respond to disabled people.





# Actions

Make sure government organisations, and organisations that get money from the Government, know about and respond to disabled people.

- Make sure that government organisations support what the New Zealand Disability Strategy wants to have happen.
- Train people to know what the New Zealand Disability Strategy says and what disabled people expect.
- Make sure all government organisations treat disabled people the same as everyone else.
- Improve information available for disabled people, eg, plain language.
- Make sure all buildings of government organisations are easy for disabled people to access.

# Objective 7

Have services for disabled people that work for disabled people and are easy to get.



# Actions

Have services for disabled people that work for disabled people and are easy to get.

- Treat people fairly and make sure there is some flexibility in the services that support them.
- Make sure that people who run services work together, to make it simpler for disabled people to get support.
- Have good rehabilitation services.
- Identify what needs are not being met and find ways of fixing this.
- Have skilled staff and support people to work with disabled people.

# Objective 8

Support disabled people to have a good life in the community and to have the opportunity to live in their own homes.



# Actions

Support disabled people to have a good life in the community and to have the opportunity to live in their own homes.

- Help disabled people to live in the community in their own homes.
- Assist disabled people living in rural areas by improving access to services.
- Make sure disabled people can get health services in their community.
- Make public transport accessible for disabled people.
- Make it easier to get between buildings, public transport and public places like footpaths, streets and parks.

# Objective 9

Support disabled people to have choices and help them to have access to recreation and cultural opportunities.



# Actions

Support disabled people to have choices and help them to have access to recreation and cultural opportunities.

- Support disabled people in making choices about their relationships, sexuality and reproductive rights.
- Educate arts, recreation and sporting organisations about disability issues and inclusion.
- Support the development of arts, recreational and sports projects involving disabled people.

# Objective 10

Collect information about disabled people to help with planning and understanding what disabled people want and need.





# Actions

Collect information about disabled people to help with planning and understanding what disabled people want and need.

- Make sure good research is done about disability.
- Use research information to help with planning and developing services.
- Collect only useful information about disabled people.
- Make sure research information is presented in a way disabled people can understand.
- Make sure disabled people are involved with research and that it is of a high standard.

# Objective 11

Promote the involvement of disabled  
Māori so that their culture is  
understood and recognised.



# Actions

Promote the involvement of disabled Māori so that their culture is understood and recognised.

- Make sure disabled Māori have a say about what they want.
- Involve Māori in planning services and in leadership roles.
- Have more services developed and provided by Māori.
- Train providers about what Māori want and need.
- Ensure information is available in a way that Māori can access.

# Objective 12

Promote involvement of disabled Pacific peoples so that their cultures are understood and recognised.



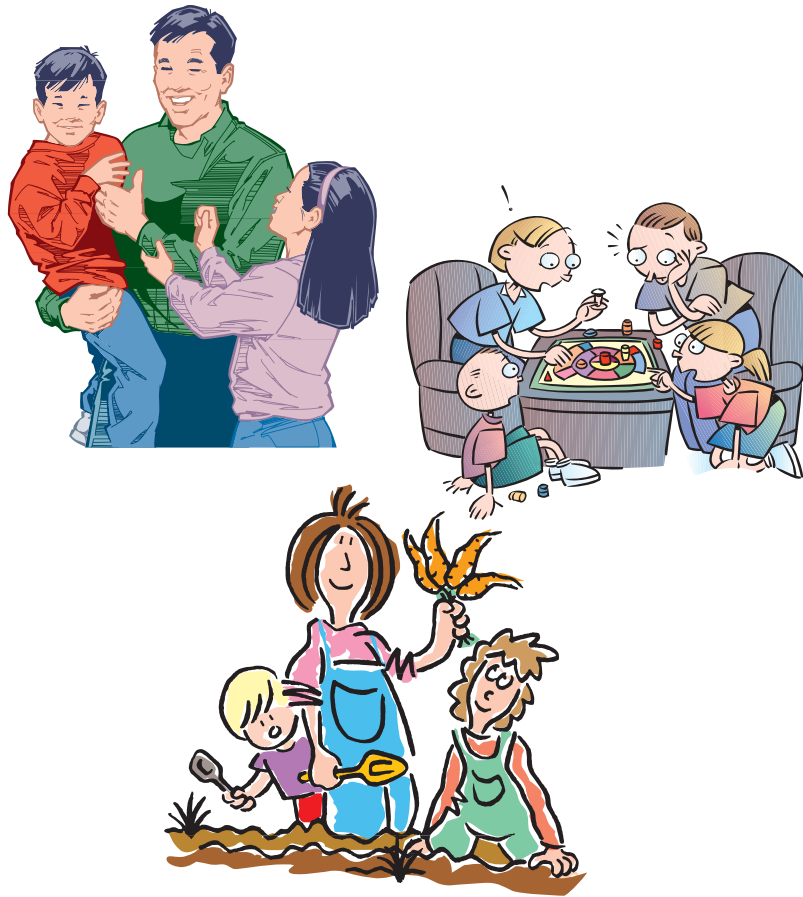
# Actions

Promote the involvement of disabled Pacific peoples so that their cultures are understood and recognised.

- Improve services for disabled Pacific peoples, their families and communities.
- Train providers so they understand what disabled Pacific peoples want and need.
- Have more disability services provided by Pacific peoples.
- Get Pacific communities to talk and think about disability issues.
- Make sure information is available in a way that Pacific peoples can access.

# Objective 13

Help disabled children and young people to have good lives that prepare them to be adults.



# Actions

Help disabled children and young people to have good lives that prepare them to be adults.

- Make sure government agencies know about the needs and wants of disabled children, young people and their families.
- Make sure anything happening for all New Zealand children involves disabled children and young people.
- Ask disabled children and young people what they want.
- Provide education to help people understand the needs and wants of disabled children and young people.
- Make sure services are available for disabled children and young people.
- Make transition from childhood education through to employment easier.
- Identify disabled children and young people as leaders and make sure government organisations involve them in discussions and planning.

# Objective 14

Assist disabled women to improve their lives and be a part of their communities.





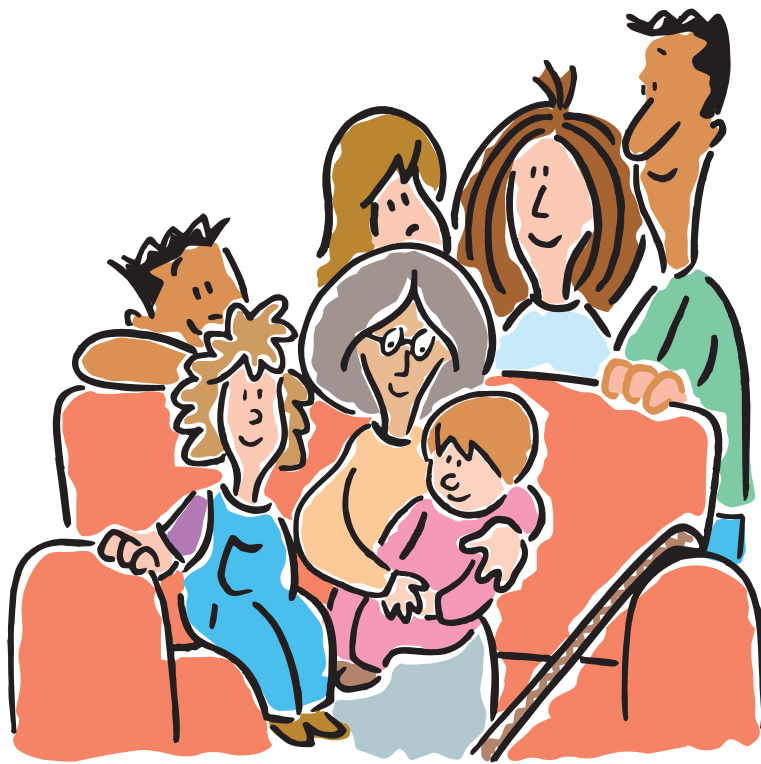
# Actions

Assist disabled women to improve their lives and be a part of their communities.

- Understand what rights disabled women have and make sure that they have the same opportunities as men.
- Support disabled women to live independently.
- Make sure that treatment for health and reproduction is the same as for non-disabled women.
- Make sure disabled women are involved when strategies and plans are being developed.

# Objective 15

Recognise the importance of families, whānau and people who provide support for disabled people.



# Actions

Recognise the importance of families, whānau and people who provide support for disabled people.

- Provide education and information for families and people who support disabled people.
- Involve family/whānau in decisions where appropriate.
- Develop information to help professionals understand how to communicate with families of disabled people.
- Involve family/whānau in the planning and development of services where appropriate.

## So what next ...

- All government departments/organisations will have to work towards making the things in the New Zealand Disability Strategy happen.
- All government departments will have to make a plan.
- Disabled people need to make sure the Government does what it says it is going to do.