

**Hon Nicky Wagner**

**Disability Forum**

**Ministry of Social Development**

**Thursday 6 April, 10am**

***Introduction:***

Good morning. I’m pleased to be here to discuss the next steps in the system-wide transformation of disability support services.

Transforming the disability support system is one of my top priorities and cuts across two of my portfolios — Associate Health and Disability Issues.

## *Acknowledging where this work came from:*

The system transformation started with a report about day services from an independent working group to the former Minister for Disability Issues, Hon Tariana Turia.

The report outlined a vision and principles to support disabled people to achieve a good life. Anne Wilkinson and Mark Benjamin — who are on our panel today — were part of the working group that delivered the report.

In late 2013, we started in Christchurch with the first demonstration of the Enabling Good Lives vision and principles. The demonstration focussed on an important group — disabled young people transitioning from school to the next stage of their lives.

In July 2015, we launched the second demonstration in Waikato, targeting four specific groups:

* disabled people who would like increased choices in their lives (particularly around where they live)
* Māori
* disabled children aged 0-18 and their families; and
* disabled people who, with a small amount of assistance, could be employed.

We’ve learnt a lot from our experiences in both Christchurch and Waikato — we now have a much clearer idea of what works and what doesn’t.

We’ve learnt that more choice and control for disabled people and their families can be life changing. We’ve learnt how much disabled people and their families value having an independent person to provide support and help them dream big.

And we’ve learnt that we need a user-friendly system, with sufficient time for implementation.

At the beginning of the Christchurch demonstration, we were too ambitious and tried to do too much, too fast. This created challenges for everyone. As a result, we made sure we had a year’s lead in time for the Waikato demonstration.

## *Looking forward — System Transformation:*

I’m excited about the next stage of system transformation — the co-design and roll out in the Mid-Central region.

The transformation will build on lessons learnt from the Enabling Good Lives demonstrations, as well as the evidence from here and overseas.

The co-design process we’re about to begin is different to what we’ve done before. The goal is to create a new way of working that can be rolled out across New Zealand.

The design will focus on how to transform or overhaul the existing system instead of adding another layer. It will incorporate an explicit social investment approach to improve outcomes for individuals and achieve savings over the long term.

On Tuesday I announced the group responsible for designing the new system. They are:

* five disabled people — Gerri Pomeroy, Jade Farrar, Shane McInroe, Esther Woodbury and Helena Tuteao
* two family members — Tina Lincoln and Lawrence Chok; and
* two providers — John Taylor and David Matthews.

The group will also include Sacha O’Dea and Toni Atkinson from the Ministry of Health, Georgina Muir from the Ministry of Social Development and a representative from the Needs Assessment and Service Coordination services.

No decisions have been made about the final design — everything is on the table because this is our opportunity to work through any issues or concerns.

This process will kick off next week, on Tuesday 11 April. The group will meet for nine days between April and June, and I intend to take the final design to Cabinet in the middle of year.

## *Closing remarks:*

I’m really excited about this process to develop a new system that will give disabled people more choice, more control and more opportunities in their lives.

There will be opportunities for all of you to contribute to the co-design process so

I encourage you to add your name to the list for regular updates.

I’ll now hand over to Sacha O’Dea to provide some more detailed information about the co-design process before you get a chance to ask questions about the system transformation.

Thank you.