



**ORANGA TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children



# Our Disability Vision and Strategy



**Published: June 2023**

# About this document



This document is from **Oranga Tamariki** which is the part of government that works on things to do with children.



When we use the word **we** in this document it means Oranga Tamariki.

This document is about our:

- disability **vision**
- disability **strategy**.



A **vision** is an idea for how we want things to be.



A **strategy** is a plan for how we are going to make the vision happen.

We want to know what you think about the disability strategy.



We will tell you how you can have your say later in this document.



In this document we will talk about:

- **tāngata whaikaha Māori**
- **tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa.**



**Tāngata whaikaha Māori** means Māori disabled people.



**Tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa**  
means disabled people and their  
**champions.**



**Champions** are people who:

- support disabled people
- speak up for disabled people.

Champions might be:

- whānau / family
- friends
- other important people in your life.



# What we think disability is



We made a **draft definition** of disability.



A **draft** means it is:

- our first try
- something we will do more work on.



A **definition** is what a word means.



Our draft definition says that disabled people are people:

- who have long term **impairments**
- who also experience **barriers**
- for who those impairments and barriers mean they do not get the same chance as other people to:
  - live a good life
  - be part of society.



**Barriers** are things that make it harder for people to have a good life.



An **impairment** is when you:

- cannot do something that most people can
- find it much harder to do something than most people.



Impairments can be:

- physical – which means to do with the body
- cognitive – which means to do with thinking
- intellectual – which means learning disability
- **neurological**
- sensory – which means to do with things like hearing or seeing.



**Neurological** means to do with the brain or nerves.



It can include many different conditions like:

- epilepsy
- cerebral palsy.



Our definition of disability also includes people who have **neurodivergent conditions** like:

- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder / FASD
- Autism Spectrum Disorder / ASD
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder / ADHD.



**Neurodivergent conditions** are some ways that brains work differently.

# Our vision



Our vision is:

The mana of tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa / disabled people and their champions is **enhanced** by:

- meeting their needs
- making sure they get their **rights**
- supporting their:
  - hopes
  - dreams.



**Enhanced** means made bigger or stronger.



**Rights** are the things everyone should have to live a good life like:

- a safe place to live
- food to eat
- good medical care.



For us this vision means we understand tāngata whaikaha:

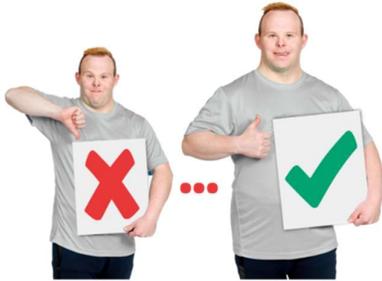
- know the most about their own lives
- are the best people to know how to make things better.



This vision also means we will:

- respect what is important to tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa
- work together with tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa
- support people to speak up for themselves rather than speaking for them.

## How we came up with our vision



We know we need to work better with disabled people.

Making a disability vision / strategy will make it easier for us to use a **social / rights based model** of disability.



A **model** is a way of understanding something.



A **rights based model** is a way of thinking about disability that is focused on rights.



The **social model of disability** says the problem is:

- that there are barriers to disabled people having a good life
- not that disabled people cannot do some things.



**Te Tiriti o Waitangi** will also be very important to the model we use.



**Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi** is an important agreement between Māori and the British Crown.



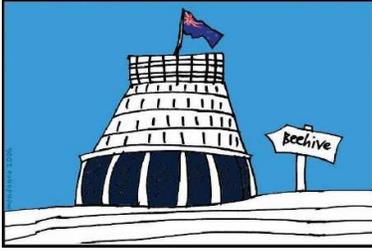
We made the vision and strategy in 2 parts.



In Part 1 we spoke to over 2 hundred and 50 people including:

- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- Pacific disabled people
- young people who have experience of being **in care**
- caregiving whānau
- kaimahi / workers who work in the same area we do
- Oranga Tamariki kaimahi / workers
- service providers.





Being **in care** means the government is responsible for you rather than your parents.



After we spoke to everyone we worked with the Oranga Tamariki Disability Advisory Group to:

- make a vision
- come up with 4 **shifts** needed to make it happen
- write a draft definition of disability.



A **shift** is a change in:

- how we think
- what we do.

In Part 2 we want to know what you think.

# How we will make our vision happen



We have come up with 4 shifts that need to happen to make our vision real.

## Shift 1 – How we see disability

We understand that:

- disability is just 1 part of who tāngata whaikaha / disabled people are
- disability can be something tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa experience together.



Often we see disability as something to fix.



We should be dealing with the barriers tāngata whaikaha face.

Some of the ideas we have heard to make Shift 1 happen are:



- give disabled tamariki / children and rangatahi / young people what they need so they can have their say



- look at our **transition services** to make sure they are:
  - accessible – which means they do not have barriers that stop people using them
  - inclusive – which means they are for everyone who needs them.



**Transition services** are services that support young people as they:

- become adults
- prepare to leave care.



Another idea is to make sure more people understand that:

- disability can be an important part of who people are
- disability is also not the only thing that is an important part of who disabled people are.



## Shift 2: Systems work for people

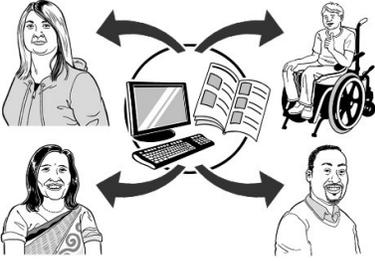
Systems are how things work together.



They can include things like:

- the rules about how we do things
- the computer programs we use
- how different people in Oranga Tamariki work together.

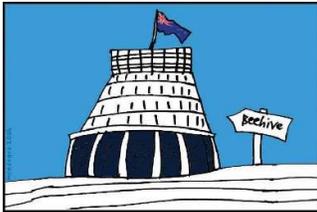




We need these systems to be:

- transparent which means how we do things is not a secret
- consistent which means following the same rules every time
- connected
- rights based.





Some of the ideas we have heard for making Shift 2 happen are:

- make ways for tāngata whaikaha to get involved in leadership
- make new ways of supporting people who care for disabled tamariki / children
- make an agreement for how different parts of government work together
- work on ways of having **restorative justice** for young people that work well for disabled people.



**Restorative justice** means that when someone does something wrong the focus is trying to make things better not punishment.

### Shift 3: Disability confident and competent workforce



The **workforce** means people who work for Oranga Tamariki.

A **disability confident workforce** means workers do not have to worry about not knowing how to work with disabled people.



A **disability competent workforce** means workers know a lot about disability.



This includes working with disabled people from different **cultures**.



**Culture** is a way of:

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

There are many different cultures in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some examples of the different cultures are:

- Māori culture
- Pacific culture
- Deaf culture.

Some parts of Oranga Tamariki already do this well.



All Oranga Tamariki workers need to do this well.



Some ideas we have heard to make Shift 3 happen are:

- start a disability training programme
- make sure all Oranga Tamariki kaimahi / workers are disability competent in a way that fits the job they do
- have more people who work in jobs that focus on disability
- make sure disability is included in all the ways we do things.



## Shift 4: Oranga Tamariki is safe and proactive



Being **proactive** means we get on and do things:

- without being told to
- before something bad happens.



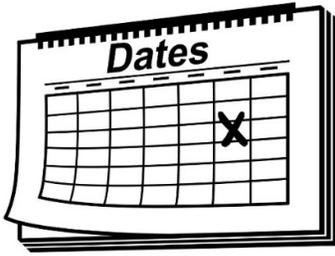
Sometimes when tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa ask for support from Oranga Tamariki they get:

- harm
- **discrimination.**



**Discrimination** is when you are treated unfairly for something like:

- being disabled
- being Māori.



Some of the ideas we have heard to make Shift 4 happen are:

- make sure we find out what disabled tamariki / children need as soon as we can
- make sure tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa are connected to their communities before things get really bad
- have **respite** / care that meets the needs of:
  - tamariki whaikaha / disabled children
  - rangatahi whaikaha / disabled young people
  - their whānau / caregivers.





**Respite** is when someone is looked after by people who are not their usual support people.

This means everyone can have a break.



Another idea is to give information to tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa that is:

- transparent – which means we are not hiding anything people should know
- accessible.



This information would be about:

- support for children
- disability support
- services
- funding which means money to pay for things.
- rights
- entitlements which are things you have a right to get.



# How to have your say



We want to hear what you think about the best ways to make our vision happen.



You can have your say by:

- talking to someone who works on this project
  
- sending us what you think:
  - in writing
  
  - as a sound recording
  
  - as a video.





There is an Easy Read document called:

## **How to tell us what you think about our Disability Strategy.**

This document has:

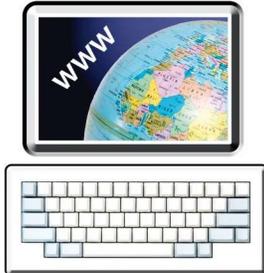
- questions you might want to answer
- other information about how to have your say.



You can find this document at this **website** link:

**<https://tinyurl.com/znr5b3d9>**

## More information



You can find more information about the disability strategy at this website link:

<https://tinyurl.com/txrzpwyp>

You can also contact us:



- by email:

[disability.strategy@ot.govt.nz](mailto:disability.strategy@ot.govt.nz)

- by phone: **0508 326 459**

- by post:

**Oranga Tamariki National Office**

**PO Box 546**

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This information has been written by Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children.



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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