






# My Voice Matters 2014 Disability Issues Political Score Card

Question	Answer Guide	 Green Party	 NZ First	 Mana	 United Future	 Internet Party
	Yes / Agree					
	Maybe / Undecided					
	No / Disagree					
Repeal discriminatory provisions of the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree
Repeal all provisions for Minimum Wage Exemption Permits	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Repeal sections 141 and 142 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families Act 1989	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree
Provide an effective, nationally consistent and equitable Total Mobility scheme	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Include accessibility as a quality indicator in housing Warrant of Fitness tests	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Create an independent disability commission to manage all disability policy and funding matters	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	No / Disagree	Yes / Agree
Establish a Centre of Research Excellence and a Chair in Disability Studies?	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Sign and ratify the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Marrakesh Treaty by Dec 2015	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Improve compliance with and extend Government Web Standards for accessible information	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree
Sign and ratify the UN CRPD Optional Protocol, preferably within the next parliamentary term	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Maybe / Undecided	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree	Yes / Agree

\* National Party made contact to refuse to provide answers

\* No reply from Labour, Maori, Act, or Conservative Parties

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# **My Voice Matters     2014 Disability Issues Political Score Card**

We asked political parties for a YES/AGREE or MAYBE/UNDECIDED or NO/DISAGREE answer for each of the following.

1. Will your party commit to repealing discriminatory provisions of the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill, regarding upgrade exemptions for disability access and emergency exits, if it becomes law during the next parliamentary term?

**Explanatory Comments:**

This legislation undermines the place and value of disabled people in society. There have been many generalised and overstated assumptions about the cost of making buildings accessible, while equality of human rights and the social and economic benefits of increased accessibility have been ignored.

2. Will your party commit to take action during the next parliamentary term to repeal all provisions for Minimum Wage Exemption Permits?

**Explanatory Comments:**

It has been broadly acknowledged by disabled people and their family/whanau, politicians, Disabled Peoples Organisations and Supported Employment agencies that MWEs are discriminatory and not consistent with the [UN CRPD](#). While there has been lengthy and on-going dialogue within the sector to find 'alternatives', a clear conclusion and transparent timeframe must be actioned.

3. Will your party commit to ensuring equality for disabled children by repealing sections 141 and 142 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families Act 1989?

**Explanatory Comments:**

The Children Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 provides for [less favourable](#) treatment of disabled children than non-disabled children. Extended care agreements used when a family cannot provide day-to-day care their child requires due to a disability may be extended indefinitely. These provisions afford disabled children lesser protections and lesser rights to family life than non-disabled children and appear inconsistent with the UN CRPD [Articles 23.3 and 23.4](#).

4. Will your party commit to providing an effective, nationally consistent and equitable Total Mobility scheme, including systematic increases in funding for the subsidised taxi service.

**Explanatory Comments:**

This scheme is under-funded and inadequately implemented, and there is no consistency in reporting and monitoring of problems. There is insufficient data collection and monitoring of transport accessibility and use by disabled people, making it difficult to plan for improvements.

5. Will your party commit to include housing built environment accessibility as a quality indicator in housing Warrant of Fitness tests?

**Explanatory Comments:**

People with disabilities are often living in housing that is not sufficiently accessible. They are unable to fully take on educational or work opportunities because they cannot access adequate housing.

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6. Will your party commit to support the creation of an independent disability commission to manage all disability policy and disability support service funding matters?

**Explanatory Comments:**

The 2008 [Select Committee Inquiry into Disability Support Services](#) recommended that if significant change had not happened within six years, an independent disability commission should be established. This would enable better decision making as well as improved accountability. Establishing a disability commission would take time and have an initial cost, although it should generate long term savings.

7. Will your party commit to support the recent call by Paul Gibson, Human Rights Commissioner with responsibility for Disability Rights, for New Zealand to have a Centre of Research Excellence and a Chair in Disability Studies?

**Explanatory Comments:**

Creating a place where disability rights, research and excellence are focused upon, celebrated and studied, strengthens NZ's efforts to achieve the need identified in UN CRPD for gathering formal data and statistics about disability to better inform public policy planning and decisions.

8. Will your party support and agree to sign and ratify the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Marrakesh Treaty by December 2015?

**Explanatory Comments:**

Only 1-7% of the world's published books are available in accessible formats, partly due to barriers in copyright laws. The Treaty helps address this by requiring a domestic copyright exception in law for visually impaired and print disabled people, and allowing for the import and export of accessible materials.

9. Will your party commit to improve compliance by all government departments with the NZ Government Web Standards for accessible information on the internet, and extend these standards to cover District Health Boards, local authorities and schools?

**Explanatory Comments:**

[Access](#) to government services and information remains a significant and worrying barrier to disabled people's participation in society. Government and state sector actions serve as vital role modelling to encourage change in private sector behaviours.

10. Will your party commit to sign and ratify the UN CRPD Optional Protocol, and share transparent plans and timeframes to do so, all preferably within the next parliamentary term?

**Explanatory Comments:**

The Optional Protocol to the Convention gives the UN authority to examine individual complaints with regard to alleged violations of the Convention by States parties to the Protocol. During New Zealand's second Universal Periodic Review in January 2014, the Government confirmed that accession to the Optional Protocol to the CRPD was a key consideration. However, no specific plans or timeframe have been released for achieving this.

There are heaps of places to find out more about political party policies relevant to disabled people here <http://inclusiveactioneverydaylives.wordpress.com> and here [www.dpa.org.nz/openthedoor](http://www.dpa.org.nz/openthedoor) here <http://attitudelive.com/electionshere> here [www.20percent.org.nz](http://www.20percent.org.nz) and even on Facebook here [fb.com/20percentNZ](https://www.facebook.com/20percentNZ)

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