**12 December 2013**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Review of disabled people in residential care finds systemic failures**

The findings of a review of Disability Support Services released today by the Minister of Health Tony Ryall, asks why disabled people in residential care don’t have anyone to independently oversee their safety and wellbeing.

Rachel Noble, Chief Executive of the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA), an organisation that promotes the voices of disabled people, says the report “Putting People First” is important because it looks at the issues from the perspective of a disabled resident.

“Disabled people in residential care are among the most vulnerable New Zealanders,” she says. “As an organisation we welcome this review and we support its recommendations.

“DPA agrees that processes need to be put in place to monitor and deal with all health and safety breaches in residential care. They believe all disabled people have the right to a positive sense of well being and there should be zero tolerance for all forms of abuse.

Rachel says, “DPA wants to work with key agencies including service providers, police and other disabled people’s organisations to achieve a shift in thinking around this issue. Together we need to ensure all disabled people are safe and recognised as equal citizens.”

ENDS

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**Please note Rachel is Deaf**

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