

# **Shadow Report for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**August 2014**



**This report has been put together  
by Disabled People's Organisations  
in New Zealand**

**Easy Read**

## Before you start



This is a long document.



While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this big.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone to assist you to understand it.

## Introduction



This is a shadow report for the **United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



National Governments that sign treaties must give reports to United Nations' Committees to say how they are going on certain issues.



**Shadow reports** are made by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).



They are given to the United Nations' Committees at the same time that the National Government reports are given.

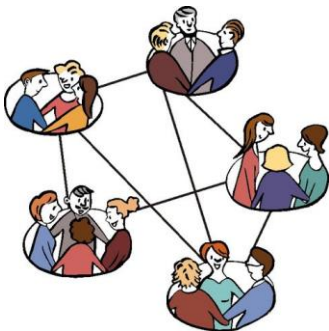


**Shadow reports** are an important way for NGOs to speak up to the United Nations.



This **shadow report** has been put together by **Disabled People's Organisations** (DPOs) in New Zealand.

**DPOs** are organisations that:



- are led by disabled people
- have members who are disabled people
- speak up for their members.



DPOs talk about what:

- happens to disabled people
- needs to be done to make life better for disabled people .



**DPOs** work to make sure that disabled people:

- get their rights as set out in the **Disability Convention**
- have the same rights as other people.





### The DPOs in New Zealand are:

- Disabled Person's Assembly (DPA)
- Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand
- Deaf Blind New Zealand Inc.
- Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand
- Ngāti Kāpo o Aotearoa
- Balance New Zealand
- People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



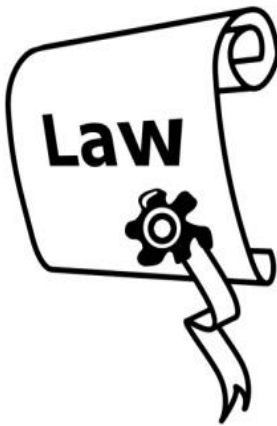
**This report** tells the United Nations Committee what DPOs think needs to happen to make sure disabled people in New Zealand get their rights.



These rights are set out in the:

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

This convention is also known as the **Disability Convention.**



The **Disability Convention** is an international law for countries that have chosen to sign up to it.



**Have a look at the end of this report to find out where you can get a copy of the Easy Read Disability Convention.**



A **shadow report** like this will be made by DPOs every 4 years and given to the UN Committee.



This is the 1<sup>st</sup> one.



## What is this Report about?



This report makes **recommendations** for the **United Nations Committee** to think about when they are looking at how things are for disabled people in New Zealand.

A **recommendation** is an idea about what needs to happen to make things better.



This report also has information from **other DPO reports** that talk about disability rights in New Zealand.



The **Disability Convention** has 33 Articles.

**Articles** are like rules or laws.



To find out about each of the Articles see the **Easy Read version of the Disability Convention.**

**Have a look at the end of this report to find out where you can get a copy of the Easy Read Disability Convention.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**The rest of this report will tell you the things the DPOs want the United Nations Committee to think about when they are looking at how things are for disabled people in New Zealand.**

## Recommendations of the DPOs in NZ: What needs to happen now

### Recommendations for Article 4

1. **DPOs** and the Government need to work together.



**DPOs** should take part in all decisions about disabled people.



2. The Government needs to give **DPOs** money to help them to do their job.

## Recommendations for Article 5



1. The Government must take away the **New Zealand Public Health and Disability Amendment Act 2013.**



### The New Zealand Public Health and Disability Amendment Act 2013:

- talks about the Government's family care policy
- does not recognise the right of disabled people to choose a family member to be their caregiver.



2. The Government needs to make it clear what **reasonable accommodations** are under the laws called the **Bill of Rights** and the **Human Rights Act.**



### **“Reasonable accommodation”**

means changing things so that disabled people can do the things that they want to do, like putting in ramps.



3. The Government must look at the law called the **Human Rights Act**:

- to make sure it gives disabled people the same protections as non-disabled people
- to make changes if it needs to.



## Recommendations for Article 6

The Government must work with **DPOs** to make an action plan to make life better for disabled women.



The action plan needs to look at:

- stopping violence that happens to women
- women getting the same pay as men who do the same job
- making better health services for disabled people
- making sure that disabled children are getting their rights to education.





## Recommendations for Article 7

1. The Government needs to work with **DPOs** and parent groups to make an action plan for collecting information about disabled children.



They need to find out:

- how many disabled children have been abused
- what has happened to disabled children who have been abused
- what support is needed or wanted for disabled children who have been abused.





2. The Government must work closely with **DPOs** to make sure that things are being done to:



- make life better for disabled children
- meet the rules of the **Disability Convention**.

## Recommendations for Article 8

**Think differently.**

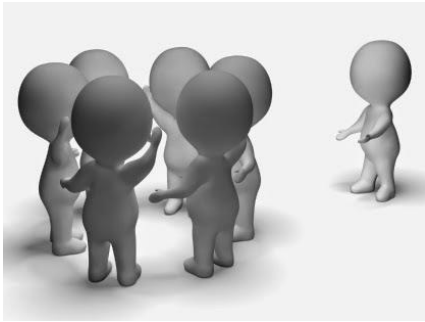


1. The Government's **Think Differently** programme must work with **DPOs** to make sure they lead the way in changing how people act towards disabled people.





2. The Government must run a disability campaign across New Zealand.



The campaign will help to make changes to the way people think and act towards disabled people.

## Recommendations for Article 9



1. The Government must write a set of rules to make sure that all buildings are accessible to disabled people.



These rules must meet the rules of the **Disability Convention**.



2. The Government must work with **DPOs** to make sure that:

- disabled people are part of the planning of new buildings



- **DPOs** have a leadership role in the work that needs to be done for building reviews.



3. The Government must make changes to the policy that says how houses should be made so they meet the needs of disabled people.

This will make sure that disabled people:

- are safe and feel safe
- can live on their own
- live a full life just like everyone else.





4. The Government must work closely with **DPOs** to make a set of rules that will make sure it is easy for everyone in New Zealand to use public transport.



5. The Government must work with **DPOs** to make it easier for disabled people to get information about government agencies in ways they understand.

## Recommendations for Article 11



1. The Government must work with **DPOs** to make sure that disabled people take part in decisions about the re-building of Christchurch.



2. The Government must make a plan to make sure that disabled people are thought about and protected when there are disasters, like earthquakes and flooding.

## Recommendations for Article 12



1. The Government must work with **DPOs** to make sure that every disabled person makes their own decisions about what they need and want.



People who cannot speak for themselves can have someone that they trust to help them say what they need and want.



2. The Government must collect information about how disabled people are being supported to make their own decisions.



3. The Government must work closely with **DPOs** to do a review of the law called the **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992**.



This needs to be done to see if it fits with **Articles 12 and 13** of the **Disability Convention**.

## Recommendations for Article 13



1. The **Ministry of Justice** must work with some of the **DPOs** to collect information about how many disabled people need a **New Zealand Sign Language** interpreter in court.



The **Ministry** should make a report about this every year.



2. The Government must look to see if disabled people who are part of a **Jury** are treated the same as everyone else.

A **Jury** is a group of people who sit in a court.



Their job is to use the information they are given in a court to decide if someone has done a crime or not.



## Recommendations for Article 14



A part of the Government called the **Department of Corrections** needs to look at what they are doing to make sure that disabled prisoners and prisoners with mental illness:

- are treated fairly
- get their rights as set out in the **Disability Convention**.

## Recommendations for Article 16



1. The **Ministry of Health** must keep saying what needs to happen from the **Putting People First** report.



2. The Government needs to say sorry to all disabled people who lived in institutions for any abuse or bad treatment that happened to them when they lived there.



The Government needs to make sure all disabled children and adults are safe now and in the future.



3. The Government must collect and look at information about disabled people being **sterilised without their agreement**.



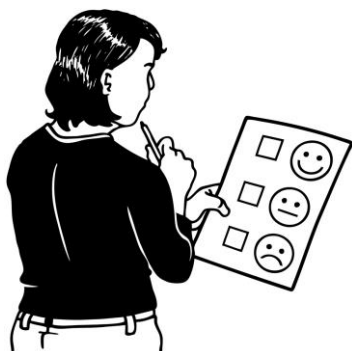
**Sterilisation** is when a person has an operation to stop them from being able to make a baby.

**For a person to be able to agree to being sterilised, they must:**



- have been given all of the information about the operation and what it means in a way they are able to understand





- understand what they have agreed to
- say yes or no to the operation.



The Government must make sure that disabled people are not sterilised without good information and their agreement in the future.

## Recommendations for Article 19



1. The Government must work closely with **DPOs** to make a 5 year plan that will make sure that disabled people have more choice about the support they need and want.



2. The Government must move all disabled people that are under 65 years of age into the community.



## Recommendations for Article 20

The Government must look at the way disability support services help disabled people to do things on their own.



## Recommendations for Article 21



The Government must work with the Deaf community to make a **New Zealand Sign Language Board**.

The Board should have people that will work together to make sure:



- Deaf people get their rights as set out in the **Disability Convention**
- more people use NZSL.

## Recommendations for Article 23



The Ministry of Justice must look at the **Adoption Act** to see if it follows the rules of the **Disability Convention**.

## Recommendations for Article 24



1. The Government must make getting an education a **right** for everyone in New Zealand.

2. The **Ministry of Education** must work with **DPOs** to make sure the education system fully includes disabled children.



3. The **Ministry of Education** needs to make a governance group that includes **DPOs**.

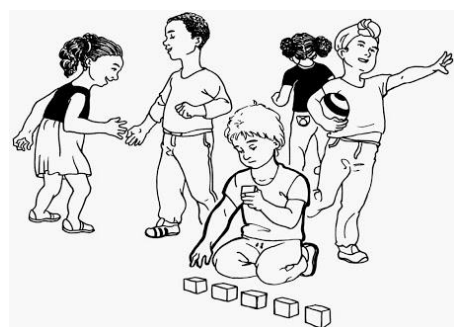
The job of this group must be to make sure disabled people get their right to education in New Zealand.



4. Better information must be collected about the lives of disabled children.



5. The **Ministry of Education** must put together programmes to stop bullying in schools.



Schools need to think about how they can make sure disabled children are safe and feel safe.



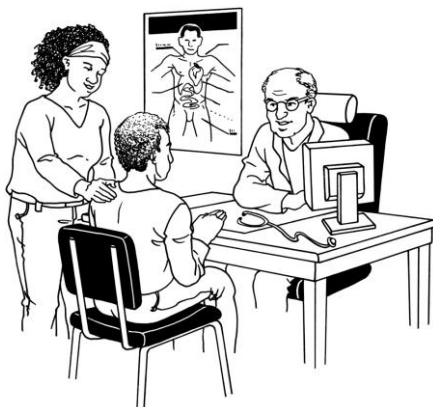
6. A part of the government called the **Tertiary Education Commission** needs to collect information on how well disabled people are doing in adult education courses.

They should report on this every year.

## Recommendations for Article 25



1. The Government should work with **DPOs** to set up a programme for making better health services for disabled people.



They should start with making things better for:

- people with learning disabilities

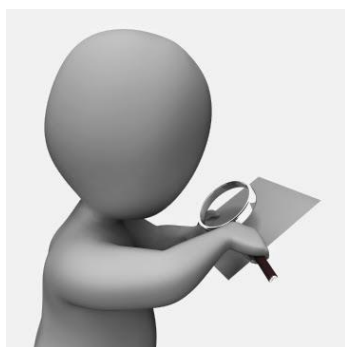


- Māori disabled people

- Pasifika disabled people



- disabled people that came to New Zealand as refugees.



They should also look at what work has already been done in this area.

2. The Government must work with **DPOs** to make a programme that helps carers and support workers with things like:

- training







- pay
- better jobs



- issues at work.

## Recommendations for Article 27



1. The Government must keep working with **DPOs** to make sure that:

- more disabled people have jobs
- disabled people have good places to work, rights at work, rules and pay like everyone else.





2. The Government must work with **DPOs** to collect information about the jobs that disabled people have.



3. The Government must work with **DPOs** to find better ways to pay disabled people for their work other than by paying less than the minimum wage.



The Government must follow the rules of the **Disability Convention** on this.



## Recommendations for Article 28

The Government must look at how much money disabled people need to be able to fully take part in the community.



## Recommendations for Article 29

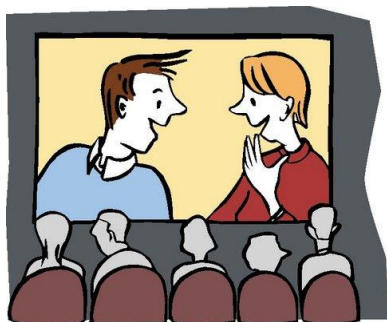


1. The Government must take away a rule that says disabled people in prison cannot vote.



2. The Government must make sure that everyone who has a right to vote at the next general election can do so in a way that works best for them, like in private and on their own.

## Recommendations for Article 30



1. The Government must work with **DPOs** to plan how to make TV programs easier for disabled people to access.

For example:



- **Captions** tell Deaf people what is being said on the screen



- **Audio description** tells Blind people what is being shown on the screen.



There should be more captions and audio describing on New Zealand TV.



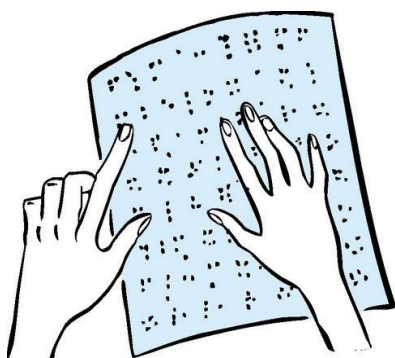
2. The Government must work with **DPOs** to plan how to make sure Māori and Pasifika disabled people can use and take part in their Māori/ Pasifika culture and language.



3. The Government needs to sign and **ratify** the **Marrakesh Treaty** by December 2015.



**Ratify** means to make something official by signing or voting for it.



The **Marrakesh Treaty** is a set of rules that say that books can be copied so that they are made accessible for disabled people.

## Recommendations for Article 31



**Statistics New Zealand** must work with **DPOs** to make a plan to collect information about the lives of disabled people.



This work should be done by all:

- government agencies
- District Health Boards
- schools
- local councils.

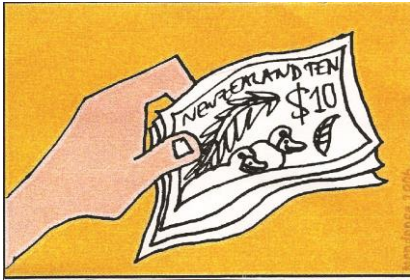
## Recommendations for Article 32



The Government must give money and support to disability work in the Pacific Islands.



They must work with DPOs in New Zealand and Australia to make this happen.



## Recommendations for Article 33

The **Ministry of Social Development** needs to keep giving money to the **Convention Coalition**.



The money will be used to check how things are going with making the **Disability Convention** rights real.

## The Optional Protocol of the Disability Convention.



The Government must ratify the **Optional Protocol** of the **Disability Convention**.

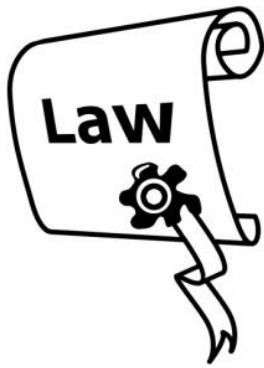


**Optional** means the Government does not have to agree to it.

They can choose whether they will agree to it or not.

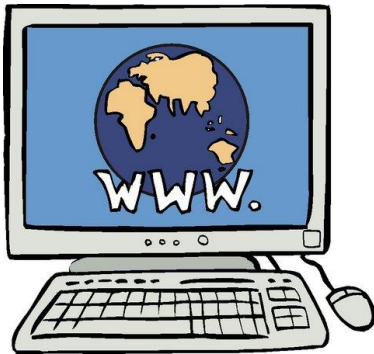


If New Zealand ratifies the **Optional Protocol** people will be able to complain to the **United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** when they are not getting their rights.



This will mean the New Zealand Government will have to do something when there are complaints about services not giving people their rights.

## Where can I find the Easy Read version of the Disability Convention?



The Easy Read version of the Disability Convention is on these websites:

- [www.peoplefirst.org.nz](http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz)
- [www.odl.govt.nz/documents/convention](http://www.odl.govt.nz/documents/convention)





This information has been translated into Easy Read  
by People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

