

ARTICLE 33

Convention Coalition
Monitoring Group

**Disability Rights in Aotearoa New Zealand:
Participation and Poverty**

Easy Read version

**A report on what disabled people in New
Zealand say about their human rights**

The **Convention Coalition Monitoring Group (Convention Coalition)** talked to 97 disabled people in 2014.



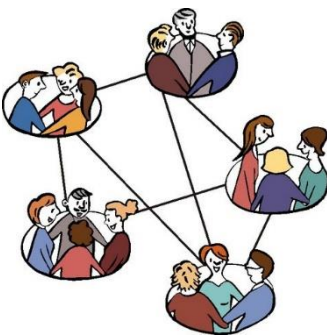
They wanted to hear about disabled people's **experiences**.



An **experience** is something that you do, or something that happens to you.



They wanted to find out how disabled people **participate** in their communities.



Participate means to **take part** in something.

The **Convention Coalition** wanted to find out if disabled people can **take part** the same way as everybody else.

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The **Convention Coalition** also talked to disabled people about **poverty**.



Poverty means being poor or having very little money.



Somebody who is poor may not have enough money to:



- buy food



- get to places they need to get to.



This **summary report** tells you what they found out.



It tells you about what disabled people thought about:



- **Participation** – being part of their communities



- **Poverty** – not having much money.



This report also links to other reports that the **Convention Coalition** have made.

Part 1: Can disabled people really take part in New Zealand?



Part 1 of the report asked if disabled people feel like they can **take part** in New Zealand society.



The **Convention Coalition** asked disabled people how well they take part in society.



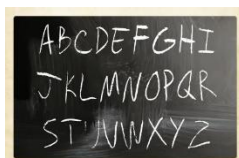
This means how they can take part in their:



- community life



- work life



- school life.



Disabled people told the **Convention Coalition** that they had problems using:



- places and buildings



- information and technology



- housing



- social life – like going to the movies



- sports – like going to play rugby



- support, services and funding.



Disabled people said they were not always treated with respect.

Getting around



Disabled people can only participate fully if they are able to get around their communities.

They need to be able to:



- get into buildings



- move around inside buildings and be able to:



- use the lifts



- use the toilets



- use desks, like counters in the bank



- make their own way around a building



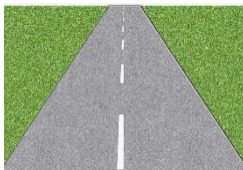
- be able to use buses, trains, and taxis



- be able to park near to where they need to be



- be able to move around on footpaths



- be able to cross the road safely at crossings.



Disabled people said that sometimes they could not:



- get into a building because there was a barrier like stairs



- get around in buildings because there were barriers like narrow doorways



- get out of their car because the car parking spaces were too small



- cross the road safely.



Disabled people said it was very hard when they could not get into or use a building or service.



It took them a lot longer to get something done.



All buildings and places should be made easier for disabled people to use.



This would be good for everybody not just disabled people.

Using information and technology

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The **Convention Coalition** found **technology** was helping disabled and non-disabled people participate in all areas of life.



Technology can be things that help to make our lives easier.



These can be things like computers or mobile phones.



Technology is getting better and helping to make people's lives easier.



Disabled people found it hard to use some technology.



This was because disabled people were not asked for their ideas when the technology was being made.



Sometimes disabled people did not have enough money to buy or use technology.

Everyone needs housing



Everyone needs access to safe housing they can use.



Housing was a big worry for some disabled people.

Auckland

This worry was very big for disabled people living in Auckland.



Sometimes disabled people's houses were too far away from their work, family and disability services.



This made it hard to take part in their family and social life.



A big worry is that there are not many houses to rent that:

- are not too much money
- people can easily use.



This meant that disabled people could not always find a house to live in.



Disabled people had to keep living with their families even if they wanted to live by themselves.

Social life and sports



Having a social life and things to do are important to disabled people.



Disabled people found it hard to get around places such as:



- sports grounds

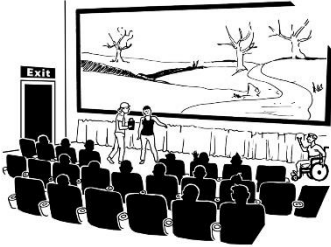
- event centres



- movies and theatres.



Sporting and cultural events were often hard for disabled people because:



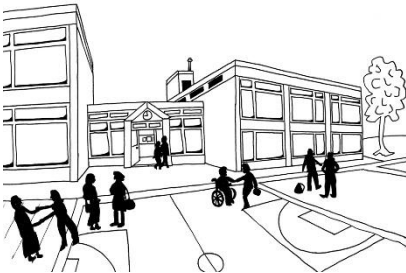
- seating was not good for disabled people



- there were no interpreters



- there is no one at events to help disabled people.



Places that have sports or other events need to be easy for everybody to use.

Supports, services and funding



Some disabled people need support and services to help them take part in everyday life.



Disabled people said that it is not always easy to get to and use support and services.



Sometimes this was because there was not enough money to make good services.



More money is needed to help make services better.



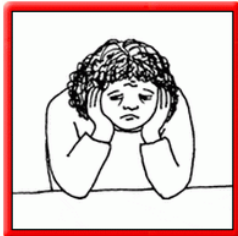
Some services asked for too much information.



Sometimes disabled people felt the services thought disabled people were asking for too much.



Disabled people also said services seem to be made for non-disabled people.



This means that services are hard to use.

Taking part and dignity



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says that **dignity** is a human right.



This means that everyone should be treated with **dignity**.

Dignity means being treated with respect and the same way as everyone else



Lots of disabled people told the Convention Coalition that they were not treated with dignity.



This happened when their human rights were not respected.

Part 2: Does poverty stop disabled people taking part in New Zealand?



Part 2 of this report is about **poverty**.



Disabled people told the Convention Coalition how being poor made it hard to take part in everyday life.



Not having enough money made life very hard.

Community attitudes



An **attitude** is the way a person thinks and acts about something or to somebody.



Disabled people said that some people thought poor people are:



- lazy



- stupid



- have little to give to society.

Big gap between rich and poor



Disabled people told the **Convention Coalition** that there was a big gap between rich and poor in New Zealand.



Disabled people said that being poor was a long-term problem.

When someone was poor for a long time it was hard to get to and use services.



This made people feel lonely.



Being poor makes it harder to take part in everyday life.



It also makes it harder to get to places.

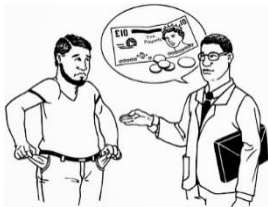
Access to resources and services



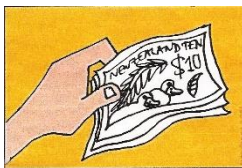
Disabled people said that being poor makes it harder to get to and use resources and services.



The Internet is one way to find out about many services easily.



Many disabled people did not have enough money to pay for the Internet.



Sometimes, having a disability means having to pay more money for some things.



For example, it costs more to use mobility taxis.

Benefits and ACC



Disabled people said it was hard to understand benefits and ACC.



They found it hard to work out how to ask for funding and support.



Many people said they had used ACC and Work and Income.



They said ACC was a bit easier to use.

Dignity and poverty



Disabled people said that they felt that they were not treated with dignity and respect.



They thought this was made worse if somebody was disabled and poor.



Poor people had to always show or prove they needed a service.



This has been translated into Easy Read in consultation with
People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

