

**OUR VISION:  
TO MATOU TIROHANGA WHAKAMUA  
(2005-2008)**

DPA (NZ) INC  
KI TE IWI HAUA O AOTEAROA  
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is still much to be done so that we are fully able to participate in New Zealand society. Those we elect to form a Government can make decisions which will help put the New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS) into action. They can also make decisions which make our participation even more difficult.

*Our Vision: To Matou Tirohanga Whakamua (2005-2008)* outlines our priorities, based on the NZDS and on our own experience, which we know can be tackled by the next Government during their term. To do this well requires continuing dialogue with disability groups, understanding and expertise in those who draft and shape policies and, above all, political will.

But we must be involved: Nothing about us, without us.

## **An incoming Government must ensure the following**

### **Principles and policy development**

- A Disability Rights Act is drafted and passed. This Act sets up a Disability Commission with a strong advocacy role, similar to the Children's or Mental Health Commissions, and is well-resourced and staffed. This Commission would complement the work of the Human Rights and related Commissions.
- The Human Rights Act is changed to remove excuses for exclusion on grounds of disability. It is then entrenched, requiring a 75 percent majority to amend it.
- The priorities of the disability section in the New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights are fully implemented in the five years 2005-2010.
- The Treaty of Waitangi is recognised in developing and providing disability services for Maori.
- Local bodies are required by law to comply with the NZDS and all public body employees are trained in disability awareness.
- The NZ Sign Language Bill is passed and the Disabled Persons Employment Promotion Act repealed.
- Public education on disability is enhanced by a nationally-coordinated and well-funded media strategy, and training of members of the 'helping professions' includes disability awareness.

## **Education and employment**

- We have the same educational opportunities and facilities as all other students at all levels of the education system.
- The Education Review Office and Tertiary Education Commission extend their reviews to include inclusiveness and accessibility of educational facilities.
- Equal opportunity legislation is extended to private sector employment.
- Our school to work transition is managed smoothly and without delays.

## **Daily living**

- Benefits are fair, equitable and adequate, based on need not cause of disability, paid directly to the individual, and benefit abatement does not act as a barrier into open employment.
- Disability Support Services (DSS) put the person with the disability at the centre of the service, meet safety and quality standards and are nationally consistent.
- There must be a single national funder of DSS to ensure consistency of service, availability and standards regardless of location.
- Housing policy work continues, with us actively involved, and a range of supported living options are available in the community.
- Building and related laws are changed to ensure consistency with the NZDS.
- All new public housing is accessible, and at least one in five new housing permits ensures the new home can be easily modified to enable full access.
- We are the majority on the boards of all residential services.
- All buildings except non-rental private dwellings are fully accessible by 2015.
- It is possible to have a door-to-door accessible journey involving public transport.
- All public toilets are accessible.
- New public gardens, parks and walkways are accessible.
- All new public transport purchases are accessible and non-accessible vehicles phased out by 2015.
- A disability transport group is established to advise the Ministry of Transport and report to Parliament.

- Eligibility for the Total Mobility scheme and the level of subsidy are nationally consistent.
- Total Mobility is available throughout the country, adequate taxi vans and taxis are available without undue delay or unrealistic advance booking.

### **Quality of life**

- Our health treatment is not prejudiced by the existence or nature of a disability, and complaints procedures are simple and well-publicised.
- Medical research involving us includes informed consent and ethical input, and our involvement in its development and monitoring.
- Health professionals and members of the 'helping professions' are well-trained and continually upskilled in disability support.
- We and our families/whanau have access to an advocate of our choice and/or to self-advocacy training and leadership development.
- All public information is routinely offered in disability-friendly formats at no extra cost.
- The Census disability question and follow-up survey continues at 5-yearly intervals.
- We are included in all community social activities, including developing our own, and are catered for in tourism and other promotional campaigns.
- Professional and amateur sportspeople with disabilities are given the same status and training opportunities as their non-disabled peers, including funding for high achievers.

### **Specific groups**

- Children and youth services cater for disabled children and their families, and relevant Ministries establish positions with disability expertise.
- Leadership forums and child and youth programmes involve and meet the needs of young disabled people.
- More services by, with and for Maori people with disabilities are developed, and Maori-led debate includes traditional attitudes, spiritual and mental health perspectives of disability.
- Pacific people are trained as providers of disability information and services to their local communities, and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs establishes a position with disability expertise.
- Similar provisions are made for members of ethnic minority groups.

- Perspectives of disabled women are included in all relevant Government programmes and delegations, and disabled women are involved in their planning and implementation.
- Our families/whanau are offered free, independent advocacy services, and the value and responsibility of the caring role is recognised, including payment where appropriate.

### **International**

- The New Zealand leadership role in developing the UN Disability Convention continues.
- International Labour Organisation Convention 159 is ratified.
- Disability work in the Pacific continues to be supported.
- Migrants and refugees are not prohibited on the grounds of disability.

# INTRODUCTION

## Why do we need *Our Vision*?

We are a big part of the New Zealand community. The 2001 Census found that one New Zealander in five has a disability of some kind. Because disability also affects our families/whanau, many more people are affected.

For some years community participation by us has been increasing, and in 2001 the Government released *Whakanui Oranga: Making a World of Difference*, the New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS). Its aim is to create a fully inclusive society, so that people with impairments can say “we live in a society that highly values our lives and continually enhances our full participation.”

The people we elect to Parliament make many decisions that affect our lives. For us to fully participate in our communities, there is still much to be done in implementing the NZDS.

This document outlines our priorities, based on the NZDS and on our own experience, which we know can be tackled by the next Government over the next three years. To do this well requires continuing dialogue with disability groups, understanding and expertise in those who draft and shape policies and, above all, political will.

## Who are ‘we’?

Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) is the collective voice of all disabled New Zealanders. Our message is that we can speak for ourselves and that others need to listen. We insist that in decision-making processes: nothing about us, without us.

We use the term ‘disabled people’ because it is society that ‘disables’ us, the collective of people with impairments.

We also use the terms ‘we’, ‘us’ and ‘our’ to make our collective voice heard, and we speak on our own behalf to Government, to the community of which we are a part, and to those who seek to represent us in Parliament and on other elected bodies.

## **Using *Our Vision***

Earlier versions of *Our Vision* have been used by political parties to inform their disability policies and their commitment to their constituents affected by disability. This edition focuses on issues to be raised and questions asked during the General Election campaign, to raise awareness and gather commitment to our preferred courses of action.

We have set it out for ourselves, families, friends, supporters and disability organisations to find the most important issues, discuss and make notes, and frame questions for asking at election meetings, in direct conversations with candidates or in media forums.

It can also be used later by MPs to refer to in working to remove barriers and increase our participation in society, and by the media to inform their understanding and hold decision-makers to account. It will also help any member of the community to increase their understanding of the issues we face.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

Since issuing the first edition of *Our Vision* in 1999, DPA recognises that public awareness of disability issues has improved and there has been some action in tackling inequities.

This includes:

- Development and initial implementation of the NZDS.
- Setting up the Office for Disability Issues within the Ministry of Social Development.
- Appointment of a Minister for Disability Issues to Cabinet.
- Legislation, including the NZ Public Health and Disability Act.
- Requiring Government agencies to comply with the Human Rights Act.
- Inclusion of a question on disability in the Census, and follow-up surveys consulting us about our experience.
- Establishment of the telephone relay service.
- Initiatives in government departments and ministries regarding our inclusion in recreation and community life eg. arts and culture, sport, parks and reserves.
- Developments in accessible public transport and in pedestrian facilities.
- A disability audit of public housing and modification of some properties.
- Improvement in equality of employment and removal of exemptions from minimum wage payments.
- Some improvement in employment opportunities through targeted projects.
- Publication of *To Have An Ordinary Life* by the National Health Committee.
- The publication of *Human Rights in New Zealand Today* (the New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights) and the development of the *Priorities for Action 2005-2010*.
- Progress towards repeal of the Disabled Persons Employment Promotion Act.
- Progress towards passing of the NZ Sign Language Bill.
- Closure of Kimberley Centre.
- Establishment of an independent People First movement in NZ.
- Tangible support for the UN Disability Convention.

This document recognises these achievements but there is so much more to do.

# OVER-ARCHING ISSUES

## Value of Life

Disabled people and their families/whanau believe that the life of a person with a disability has equal value to, and should have the rights, dignity and respect of, a non-disabled person. DPA supports the rights of disabled people to make informed choices without coercion about their lives and future.

Bioethical research and technology offer both an opportunity and a threat to recognition of our lives as valuable and deserving of respect.

## Government must ensure

1. A Disability Commission is set up and well resourced so that the Commissioner can advocate for us in bioethical debates.
2. A guidelines committee is set up with majority representation from us and including representatives of our families/whanau and bioethics specialists. This would create guidelines on such issues as:
  - withholding of medical treatment on disability grounds;
  - ensuring that disability is not grounds to deny opportunity to grow from embryo to birth, through childhood, adulthood and old age;
  - ensuring that prevention-of-impairment campaigns do not devalue those who already have the impairment; and
  - ensuring we are the leading voice in ethical debates on gene modification and research into genes implicated in disability, and we are in the majority on groups deciding the application of gene technology.
3. The National Health and Disability Ethics Committee, the Bioethics Council and similar bodies have significant disability representation.
4. Legislation protects our rights to live our full life term.

## Questions for candidates

What is your attitude to involvement of disabled people in ethical and technological decision-making bodies?

Do you support the setting up of a Disability Commission (like the Children's Commission) to advocate on behalf of individuals and groups of disabled people, and to monitor policy affecting them?

## **A Disability Commission**

An independent policy and monitoring organisation for us is needed. A Disability Non-Discrimination Act would expand on the present provisions of the Human Rights Act, set up a Disability Commission, and set time-lines for compliance by publicly-funded bodies (eg. in provision of accessible public transport).

The Disability Commission would be similar to the Children's Commission in collective advocacy, developing resources, providing information and broadening thinking on our rights. It would also be able to receive and investigate a far broader range of issues than is presently available through the Human Rights and Health and Disability Commissioner legislation, and give individual people access to an independent advocacy service.

The Mental Health Commission, with its role of developing and then leading the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy, has proved both efficient and influential and should continue. The Office for Disability Issues should continue in its work of advising the Minister, reviewing and coordinating Government policy and service delivery.

# Human Rights

We believe we have equal rights to all other New Zealanders, including the right to take part in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, civic and political life. Most of these rights are protected by the Human Rights Act and any subsequent amendments to it must continue that protection.

## Government must ensure

1. The 'reasonable accommodation' test in human rights legislation is removed because this in itself discriminates against us.
2. Once modified as outlined below, the Human Rights Act and amendments become entrenched, requiring a 75 percent Parliamentary majority to amend it.
3. The Human Rights Commission must always include a Commissioner who identifies as a person with a disability and who has an extensive knowledge of disability issues.
4. Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioners always have extensive knowledge of disability issues.
5. A Disability Commission is established by legislation (see p.11).
6. Resources are sufficient to make the Commissions effective, including the ability to take strategic cases to Court.
7. All human rights legislation is reviewed and amended to ensure:
  - disability harassment is a ground for complaint;
  - immigration and military exemptions are removed;
  - child and family legislation, including adoption, is not exempt; and
  - contraception and sterilization take place only with the informed consent of the person with a disability.
8. The New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights includes the following as priorities for action:
  - education for us in our human rights and appropriate responsibilities;
  - education for our parents and families;
  - education for agencies and staff providing services to us and our families/whanau;
  - the justice, courts and corrections systems are accessible to us, guarantee our rights and appropriately meet our needs;

- strategic court action can be taken against private sector organisations that breach legislation; and
- New Zealand’s performance on our rights is evaluated and periodically reviewed.

### **Questions for candidates**

Do you support amendment of the Human Rights Act to bring the rights of disabled people into line with the rights of all other New Zealanders?

Do you support the eventual entrenchment of the Human Rights Act so that it requires more than a simple Parliamentary majority to amend or repeal it?

# Treaty Partnership

## We recognise

The Treaty of Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document.

## We ask for

1. Government commitment to fulfilling its obligations as a Treaty partner.
2. Recognition of Article II<sup>1</sup> of the Treaty in developing all disability policies and practices.
3. Choice for all in accessing services provided by both Treaty partners.

## Question for candidates

Do you support recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi in development and provision of disability services for Maori?

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<sup>1</sup> Text of the Treaty in English and Maori:

Her Majesty the Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and to the respective families and individuals thereof the full exclusive and undisturbed possession of their Lands and Estates Forests Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess so long as it is their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession; but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs yield to Her Majesty the exclusive right of Preemption over such lands as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to alienate at such prices as may be agreed upon between the respective Proprietors and persons appointed by Her Majesty to treat with them in that behalf.

Ko te Kuini o Ingarani ka wakarite ka wakaae ki nga Rangitira ki nga hapu - ki nga tangata katoa o Nu Tirani te tino rangatiratanga o o ratou wenua o ratou kainga me o ratou taonga katoa. Otiia ko nga Rangitira o te wakaminenga me nga Rangatira katoa atu ka tuku ki te Kuini te hokonga o era wahi wenua e pai ai te tangata nona te Wenua - ki te ritenga o te utu e wakaritea ai e ratou ko te kai hoko e meatia nei e te Kuini hei kai hoko mona.

# **Government, Legislation and the Public Service**

## **We believe**

Government has a strong and continuing obligation to provide appropriate, enforceable legislation to advance our rights, opportunities and participation.

'Nothing about us, without us' should be the basis of policy-making, legislation and service development.

## **Government must ensure**

1. Amendment of the Local Government Act to ensure local body compliance with the NZDS.
2. We are involved in the development of relevant legislation, guidelines and standards.
3. Sign Language interpreters are provided for within the Legislature and at all public meetings, and Braille becomes an official means of communication within New Zealand.
4. Training of public sector employees includes awareness of the NZDS and our needs are recognised in all public service development.

## **Questions for candidates**

How will you ensure your relevant public sector policy implementation and service development involves disabled people?

What is your attitude to the use of NZ Sign Language and Braille in public sector communication?

# **SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS**

## **Inclusiveness – A Non-Disabling Society**

‘Disability is the process that happens when one group of people create barriers by designing a world only for their way of living, taking no account of the impairments other people have. Our society is built in a way that assumes we can all see signs, read directions, hear announcements, reach buttons, have the strength to open heavy doors and have stable moods and perceptions.’<sup>2</sup>

### **We believe**

The most common barrier that disables us is the attitudes of other people.

People have impairments, such as deafness or arthritis or cerebral palsy. Disability results when these impairments interact with an inadequate environment.

### **Government must ensure**

1. Development of a nationally coordinated media strategy, positively focusing on our rights, needs, successes, aspirations and potential. The Like Minds, Like Mine campaign is a successful model which should be continued and expanded.
2. Support is provided by locally-based inclusive community programmes, with a paid key contact person and community disability-education coordinator.
3. Positive disability education campaigns are provided in all schools for both staff and students, and employers are similarly targeted.
4. Training of members of the ‘helping professions’ includes disability awareness and its application to their profession, and appropriate public education material is available in waiting areas and community centres.
5. Medical professionals particularly are educated in appropriate language and attitudes including understanding that much disability is not a sickness.
6. Positive, accurate and helpful information is available to our families.
7. We are involved in any debate on disability and cultural issues and attitudes in our society.

### **Questions for candidates**

Do you support public funding for public education about disability, similar to the Like Minds, Like Mine campaign?

Do you agree that disabled people should be involved in debates about disability, cultural issues and attitudes?

If so, would you advocate for such funding/involvement within your caucus/party?

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<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Disability Strategy 2001.

# **Education**

## **We believe**

Every person with a disability has a right to quality education at every level of the education system.

## **Government must ensure**

### **Policy development**

1. Our voices lead in the development of education policy for us.
2. People with diverse impairments and educational experiences are involved in governance and advice provision at all levels of the education structure.
3. The Disability Commission (see p.11) has educational expertise within it and its reports to Parliament cover progress towards educational inclusiveness.
4. Material is developed for, and independent advocates are available to, our families/whanau seeking education for us.

### **Compulsory education**

5. Members of Boards of Trustees and education executives are educated to understand our place in the community (including their schools) and our learning needs.
6. The Educational Review Office includes in its reports an assessment of each school's inclusiveness.
7. Disability education features in pre-service teacher training and professional development courses.
8. Teacher aides assisting disabled students undergo appropriate general training and are offered specific information on their student's disability, including its impact on their learning ability, pace and expression.
9. The use of NZ Sign Language and Braille is promoted and available to Deaf or Blind students in any setting.
10. The particular needs of Maori and Pacific people with disabilities are met in any school.
11. We are actively recruited as trainee teachers.

### **Non-compulsory education**

12. Early intervention programmes and early childhood education for disabled children are actively supported and provided in all communities.
13. Transition and employment programmes for us are available in the same way as for other students of our age.
14. We have access to second-chance education and appropriate job training.

### **Tertiary education**

15. The Tertiary Education Strategy includes a section focusing on us as students and staff.
16. The Code of Practice for tertiary institutions regarding students with a disability is implemented by all tertiary-level establishments and regularly reviewed.

### **Questions for candidates**

Do you support the principle of inclusive education for disabled people?

Would you advocate the ERO and Tertiary Education Commission extending their reviews to include accessibility and inclusiveness?

What is your attitude to the teaching of disability communication such as Sign Language and Braille? Do you think it should be a medium of instruction?

# Employment

## We believe

It is our right to have the opportunity to be engaged in productive and meaningful employment which provides flexibility, equal opportunity and career path development.

## Government must ensure

1. A group of disabled people is set up to advise the Ministry of Social Development on meeting all our needs as job seekers, and an increase in Job Support funds to meet individual needs.
2. Removal of all legislative barriers to our participation in employment on equal terms with all other workers.
3. A well-managed transition for workers in sheltered workshops to meaningful fairly-paid employment.
4. We are actively recruited into the state sector and local body employment with funding and other resource support where required, so we are represented in the public sector in proportion to our numbers in the population, and over-represented in disability policy, service or programme units.
5. Equal Opportunity legislation is enacted for private sector employment.
6. Capacity-building and upskilling programmes support us to move into paid or self-employment.
7. Information about career options and support is appropriately communicated to both employers and ourselves.
8. Employment-related legislation (such as Occupational Safety and Health) does not force unnecessary disclosure of disability, leading to employment-related exclusion.
9. Volunteer work is regarded as a meaningful option for many of us and equivalent support is available as for paid employment.
10. School to work transition is managed as smoothly for us as for others.
11. Business, staff and service organisations are encouraged to include us in their delegations and executives.
12. Passage of the legislation repealing the Disabled Persons Employment Promotion Act.

## Questions for candidates

Do you support the development of equal opportunity legislation for private sector employment?

Do you support the closure of sheltered workshops and transition of those workers to meaningful mainstream work?

# **Income**

## **We believe**

All people have the right to income adequate for them to live and participate in the community with dignity and respect.

When Government-funded income maintenance is our only income, its level must be set to recognise both the cost of living and the true cost of impairment.

## **Government must ensure**

1. Benefits are reviewed annually to take account of inflation.
2. The benefit system is based on need, not type or cause of impairment, and gaps are closed between ACC clients and others.
3. The Disability Allowance is reviewed and fully meets our impairment-related costs. Assessments for costs are performed by appropriate professionals and are not unnecessarily repeated.
4. Benefit abatement is reviewed so as not to act as a barrier into open employment.
5. The benefit system is fair and equitable with a basic rate regardless of age, gender and family status, and payments are made directly to us.
6. Emergency benefits and timely lump-sum payments are available to meet sudden extra demands on our finances.
7. Any move to a single Core Benefit takes account of our particular needs.
8. Communication of income assistance and entitlements is adequate and appropriate.

## **Questions for candidates**

What is your attitude towards a single Core Benefit?

Do you support benefit equity between people and access to support services and funding regardless of how their impairments have been caused?

# **Disability Support Services**

## **We believe**

We should be entitled to receive whatever services or other support or assistance is required to reduce the disabling effects of impairment. Services should be designed so we have a full, meaningful and constructive life of our choosing.

## **Government must**

Continue working with DPA and our other representative organisations and our families/whanau, to create a single, national funder of DSS governed by us.

## **Government must ensure**

1. The disabled person is at the centre of any service delivered, that it meets safety and quality standards and is nationally consistent.
2. People with similar needs are equally supported and serviced.
3. Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) is based on clearly-defined principles rather than rigid criteria, and there is no link between NASC and business units of hospital health services.
4. Needs assessment processes are holistic and take into account the situation of our families/whanau as well as ourselves.
5. Equipment services are fully funded and all equipment supplied meets our needs and aspirations, and comes with appropriate training and support.
6. Equipment manufacture and maintenance capacity is maintained.
7. All funded DSS are consistent with the NZDS and not inappropriately medicalised.
8. Contracts with DSS providers include mandatory on-going training for staff in all aspects of disability and care provision.
9. Those who wish to manage their own services receive direct payment and support as requested.
10. Service organisations involve us at all levels. We are supported to be on provider governance boards, including services specifically focusing on Maori and Pacific people with disabilities.
11. Corrections services take account of our needs, our families/whanau, and appropriate Compulsory Care exists for offenders whose disability makes mainstream corrections inappropriate.

## **Questions for candidates**

Do you support the development of a single national funder of DSS to develop consistency of service availability and standards across geographical, agency and District Health Board (DHB) boundaries?

Will you work towards equal provision of services, equipment, home modifications and other support regardless of the reason for the disability?

# **Accommodation**

## **We believe**

Accommodation support and housing policies must actively support our right to human dignity and to choose our own lifestyle and accommodation options.

## **Government must ensure**

1. We continue being involved in on-going housing policy work which aims to identify gaps and meet needs.
2. Promotion and development of a range of Supported Living options within the community.
3. We are supported to live in our communities through inclusive community campaigns and free from inappropriate use of the Resource Management Act.
4. Those who choose to live in rural communities are enabled to do so, and young people have a range of independent living options.
5. Legislation (including the Building, Local Government and Resource Management Acts) are amended to ensure consistency with the NZDS, and inappropriate compliance with arbitrary safety standards is not imposed.
6. Housing New Zealand's housing work programme for us is developed and well-funded for implementation.
7. All new public housing is accessible and addresses our physical and social needs as well as those of the community. Marae-based accessible housing for kaitiaki and kuia is encouraged. Existing public housing stock is progressively modified towards 50 percent accessibility.
8. At least 20 percent of new private housing permits ensure simple modification is possible to meet current accessibility needs and future needs based on demographic trends.
9. Those who provide residential services using public money move towards having a majority of us in governance, having input into all service decisions, and ensuring that the facilities look more like our homes than their workplaces.

## **Questions for candidates**

Will you work to ensure changes to existing legislation in line with the NZDS, and that relevant new legislation is consistent with the NZDS?

Do you support the aim that new public housing should be accessible, flexible and sited to offer a range of choices of appropriate housing for disabled people?

# Access to the Built and Natural Environment

## We believe

Everyone benefits from our human right to participate with dignity in the normal life and activities of the community.

## Government must ensure

1. Legislative backing of NZ Standard 4121:2001<sup>3</sup> is maintained and exemptions granted only in exceptional circumstances, and the requirements of the Building Act<sup>4</sup> are enforced.
2. All buildings except for non-rental private dwellings are fully accessible by 2015.
3. Universal design principles are promoted and all Government spaces, information, equipment and processes are accessible.<sup>5</sup>
4. The International Symbol of Accessibility is not used without authorisation.<sup>6</sup>
5. 'Door to door' accessible journeys are catered for, using all forms of transport, including parking, kerb cuts and ramps, uncluttered pavements, tactile surfaces and audible signals.
6. All public toilets should be accessible and, preferably, unisex.
7. Most new public gardens, parks and walkways are made accessible and others modified where possible.

## Questions for candidates

Will you ensure that current and new NZ Standards enforce and extend accessibility rather than watering it down?

Will you work towards making New Zealand's outdoor facilities as accessible as possible for all people, including supporting appropriate legislation?

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<sup>3</sup> NZ Standard 4121:2001 requires all new and renovated buildings are fully accessible in physical entry and signage.

<sup>4</sup> S. 44-5(e) of the Building Act requires all signage to be accessible using new technologies and alternative formats.

<sup>5</sup> The standard should be equivalent to that of the USA's Rehabilitation Act ss.504, 508.

<sup>6</sup> Use of the symbol in New Zealand is managed and monitored by the NZ Barrier Free Trust on behalf of DPA/Rehabilitation International.

# Transport

## We believe

Transport is the basic right of all people. All forms of transport and its infrastructure, from local communities to nationally, must be accessible to us.

## Government must ensure

1. All transport facilities, contracts and policies must take account of our needs, ensure access at no extra cost, and recognise demographic changes.
2. All new purchases for public transport services must be fully accessible, including signage and announcing, and all inaccessible public transport phased out by 2015.
3. A disability transport group exists to advise the Ministry of Transport, and progress on accessibility is reported annually to Parliament.
4. Air, water, land and mobile home transport becomes accessible and all terminals and interim stops meet our needs.
5. Funding continues to be available for vehicle modification, a database of modifications and vehicles exists, and regular safety inspections are mandatory on those vehicles available for hire.
6. Numbers of accessible parking spaces are increased to meet need.

## Government must work with regional government to ensure

7. Eligibility requirements for the Total Mobility Scheme are nationally consistent, we are in the majority on any advisory committee, and external administrators of the scheme are compensated for their work.
8. The Total Mobility Scheme provides a minimum of 50 percent subsidy on all fare and the maximum subsidy is realistic rather than unduly low.
9. Taxis are available without undue delay and accessible taxis without days or weeks advance booking required.
10. There are incentives for the provision of adequate numbers of taxi-vans in urban and rural regions.
11. Disability awareness and refresher courses are part of all taxi driver training.

## Questions for candidates

Will you work towards ensuring accessibility and availability of public transport and infrastructure, and towards totally accessible fleets by 2015?

Do you support nationally-consistent standards and subsidies for the Total Mobility Scheme, and its extension into regions where it is at present lacking?

# **Health**

## **We believe**

We have the right to receive a range of quality and appropriate health services. Our health care must provide a maximum of choice and personal input, informed consent, and take full account of our particular needs.

We may have health needs specific to our impairment. We also have the same health needs as non-disabled people but these need to be addressed in an appropriate way.

## **Government must ensure**

1. We receive appropriate personal and mental health care, taking into account our cultural and ethnic origins and gender, and with the dignity of privacy.
2. Our treatment is not prejudiced because we have an impairment or by its nature, and national guidelines for provision and withholding of treatment are not based on disability.
3. Medical research must include our informed consent and ethical input.
4. Any complaints procedure is easily accessible with well-publicised information and processes.
5. Where appropriate, mental health issues are seen in impairment or disability context. Mental health service users are the majority involved in developing/monitoring mental health policy issues.
6. All health professionals have pre-service and on-going training into all aspects of impairment and disability and its implications for health service providers.

## **At regional level, Government must ensure**

7. We are represented on all DHBs by election or appointment.
8. Even where DHBs do not fund disability support services, they maintain disability advisory committees to advise on appropriate health services.

## **Question for candidates**

Will you work towards representation of disabled people at all levels of health policy and service provision?

# **Advocacy and Self-Advocacy**

## **We believe**

Advocacy and self-advocacy is the strongest and most effective of advocacy. DPA supports efforts by disabled people to promote assertiveness and self-confidence.

## **Government must ensure that**

1. In identifying, advocating and leading policy debates on disability issues, ours is the primary role, followed by that of our families/whanau and unpaid carers. The voice of service providers and disability professionals should not dominate.
2. Our training in advocacy and self-advocacy is provided and funded to enhance self-responsibility and self-esteem and so we can take part in decision-making, governance and management of all the services we use.
3. We all have the right to an advocate of their choice, independent of any service provider, to investigate their situations, to support them and, where appropriate, to speak on their behalf.
4. Leadership development for us is provided and mentoring made available.
5. Consumer organisations, self-help and advocacy groups are offered capacity-building assistance and information on how to influence decision-making at all levels including Government.
6. An independent overarching disability advocacy service is established, with a broader brief than health and disability services, and with a public education role.

## **Questions for candidates**

Who do you think should be the primary advocate for disabled people?

Will you support the establishment of a broad-based overarching disability advocacy service with a public education role?

# Information and Research

## We believe

We should be able to control our own lives. Available, accessible, relevant and timely information is the basis for informed consent and decision-making.

## Government must ensure

1. All official public information is routinely offered in a range of formats at the same or lower cost as regular printed versions.
2. All Government and relevant public body websites are fully accessible.
3. The Census disability question and follow-up survey continues at 5-year intervals, and other public surveys include appropriate questions related to disability. Policy and planning makes use of this data.
4. Any modification of the Census disability question and follow-up surveys involves an advisory group with a majority of us, plus others, to ensure consistency and relevance of information to reviews under the NZDS and other pre- and post-strategy longitudinal surveys.
5. We are included in the development and monitoring of disability research and supported to put forward our own experiences in its context. Research on disability issues affecting Maori and Pacific people and ethnic minorities should over-sample these groups where appropriate.
6. Interpreter services are developed and well-resourced to ensure our access to spoken information.

## Questions for candidates

Will you support production of Government and public information in a form accessible to all disabled people, including telephone relay services, deaf interpreters and large-print versions at no extra cost?

How frequently do you think the disability question should be included in the national Census?

# **Arts, Culture, Sport, Recreation, Leisure**

## **We believe**

All people have the right to seek and gain fulfillment in life through participation in arts, recreation, leisure and sporting activities in their community.

## **Government must ensure**

1. We are able to be included in all community social activities.
2. Arts, recreation and sports projects run by and for us are developed, and we are included in activities that celebrate and represent specific communities and cultures.
3. We have opportunities to create, perform and develop their own arts, and to access all arts activities as practitioners, participants and audiences.
4. Community and tourism promotional campaigns include us and our needs as hosts, visitors and tourists are met.
5. All staff working in arts, culture, recreation, sport and leisure receive appropriate training in disability awareness delivered by us.
6. Professional and amateur disabled sportspeople are given the same status and training opportunities as their non-disabled peers.

## **Questions for candidates**

Do you support the funding of high-achieving disabled sportspeople in the same way as other sportspeople?

Will you work to ensure that New Zealand is a desirable and well-informed tourist destination for disabled people?

## **Children and Youth**

### **We believe**

Our years as children and young people should be fun, give us a positive self-identity, allow us the dignity of risk and provide what is necessary for our future as adults.

### **Government must ensure**

1. All agencies supporting children and youth work collaboratively, to ensure their services are accessible, appropriate and welcoming for us and our families.
2. As appropriate for our age, we are involved in decision-making and control over our lives.
3. Positions with disability expertise are established in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Office of the Commissioner for Children.
4. The Children's Agenda and any other such projects make it a priority to address our needs as well.
5. Youth leadership forums for us are actively supported.
6. All mainstream sexuality and relationship programmes include our needs and perspectives.
7. Programmes such as keeping ourselves safe, anti-bullying, positive identity and self-esteem meet our needs. Suicide prevention programmes for young disabled people recognise our high-risk status and are appropriately targeted.
8. Our transitions between the various levels of education and into employment are considered, planned for and improved.

### **Question for candidates**

Given the extra vulnerability of disabled children and young people, do you support development of specific programmes – sexuality education, self-esteem, anti-bullying, suicide-prevention etc – for us alongside those of our non-disabled peers?

# **Maori People**

## **We believe**

The specific needs of Maori people with disabilities, both individually and within their whanau, hapu and iwi, must be considered whenever policy which may affect them is being considered. Policy must recognise that whanau, hapu and iwi may also be disadvantaged by an individual's impairment.

## **Government must ensure**

1. Maori people with disabilities are consulted on Maori issues and disability issues.
2. All service provision is appropriate, flexible and adaptable to Maori contexts.
3. More services of, by and for Maori people with disabilities are developed.
4. Capacity building of Maori people with disabilities is resourced within the context of Maori development frameworks.
5. All Government-funded or sponsored marae-based initiatives meet access requirements for us, and other initiatives are encouraged to do likewise.
6. Trilingual interpreters for Deaf people are trained.
7. Maori-led debate is encouraged on identity, disability and being Maori, including traditional, spiritual and mental health perspectives.

## **Questions for candidates**

Do you support the development of disability services for Maori people at all levels?

Would you vote for funding to make marae accessible?

# **Pacific People**

## **We believe**

The specific needs of Pacific people with disabilities, both individually and within their family and community, must be considered whenever policy which may affect them is being considered. Policy must recognise that families may also be disadvantaged by an individual's impairment.

## **Government must ensure**

1. Pacific people with disabilities are consulted on Pacific people's issues and disability issues.
2. Access to, and quality of, Pacific and mainstream disability service provision is improved for Pacific people, their families and communities.
3. Pacific people are trained as providers of disability information and services for their local communities.
4. More services by, of and for Pacific people with disabilities are developed and capacity-building resourced.
5. Pacific communities are encouraged to consider disability issues and perspectives and further their own understanding of disability in their cultural context.
6. Public services acknowledge and adapt to the differences between and within Pacific cultures, including those between new arrivals and established families.
7. Training of multi-lingual interpreters for Deaf people is encouraged.
8. The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs takes a leadership role in promoting participation of Pacific people with disabilities, and establishes a position with disability expertise.

## **Question for candidates**

Would you vote to provide resources for workforce development of Pacific disability service providers?

## **Ethnic minorities**

### **We believe**

There are issues concerning disabled people from ethnic minorities which often inhibit or prevent them choosing a lifestyle appropriate to their cultural heritage.

### **Government must ensure**

1. Access to and quality of service provision is improved for disabled people from ethnic minorities.
2. Disability workforce development and training for people from ethnic minorities is supported, along with training for those offering disability information and services to their communities.
3. Ethnic communities are encouraged to consider disability issues and perspectives, and further their own understanding of disability, through development of community-based plans for disability issues.
4. Information of the experience of ethnic minority people with disabilities is gathered and used to develop appropriate services.
5. The Office of Ethnic Affairs takes a leadership role in promoting the participation of disabled people from ethnic minority groups.

### **Question for candidates**

What would be your approach to developing disability services for people from ethnic minorities?

# Women

## We believe

There are issues relating specifically to disabled women that prevent them from exercising choice and attaining social and economic independence in the home, the workplace and the community.

## Government must ensure

1. The Ministry of Women's Affairs:
  - reviews its Action Plan 2004, develops awareness programmes showing disabled women in a positive and dignified light, and ceases to treat disability as a subset of health; and
  - reviews its gender analysis tool with reference to disabled women.
2. Elimination of violence and community victim support programmes urgently address the needs of disabled women and children.
3. Perspectives of disabled women are included in all relevant Government programmes and delegations, and disabled women are involved in planning, consultations and implementation of such programmes.
4. Informed decision-making about their lifestyles, fertility and sexuality is the right of all disabled women and girls, and information is offered in a variety of accessible formats.
5. Fully-accessible health and reproduction-related treatment and screening is offered to all women regardless of ability, with minimum need to travel.
6. Those disabled women who care for others have access to services they need themselves as well as those they support.
7. EEO legislation, pay equity, affirmative action and other programmes assist disabled women to access educational opportunities and achieve economic well-being.
8. Appropriate women-only services are supported.

## Questions for candidates

Do you support the rights of disabled women and girls to have informed health, sexuality and lifestyle choices and protection from violence?

Will you nominate appropriately-qualified disabled women to Government bodies and delegations?

# **Families, Whanau and Carers**

## **We believe**

Families, whanau and carers nurture us during our childhood and youth and support us afterwards.

## **Government must ensure**

1. All relevant agencies are accessible and welcoming to us and our families.
2. Those who support us are in turn offered support and choices.
3. Our families/whanau are offered education, information and encouragement.
4. Where decisions about a disabled child or young person are to be made, our families/whanau are involved to the same extent as with any other child/young person. Where we cannot communicate independently, a person of our choice who may be a family member is asked to help interpret our needs.
5. Resources for us on interacting with our families/whanau are available to professionals dealing with family violence where we are the victims.
6. Our families/whanau are offered free, independent advocacy services when advocating for our needs.
7. Responsibilities, recognition and value for the caring role, including payment, are clarified.
8. More flexible respite options, especially non-hospital-based, are available to families.
9. When we, as adults, are transitioning from institutions and workshops, our families are kept informed of our options while freed from pressure to assume responsibility for us.

## **Question for candidates**

Do you support the setting up of a free, independent advocacy service for families/whanau and carers of disabled people?

## **International Issues**

### **We believe**

As a member of the international community, the New Zealand Government has a responsibility to ensure our participation in the international disability community, to ensure our involvement in the sharing of new developments and to promote our rights and aspirations here and everywhere.

### **The New Zealand Government must ensure**

1. It continues to have a leadership role in the UN Disability Convention development.
2. It supports work on disability issues in the Pacific.
3. It ratifies the International Labour Organisation Convention 159.
4. Migrants and their families wishing to come to New Zealand are not prohibited on grounds of disability.
5. Refugee status is granted by New Zealand to asylum seekers facing oppression because of their disability, and New Zealand lobbies the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to include disability in its refugee screening.
6. Disabled New Zealanders are supported to be active on international disability issues.
7. Whenever New Zealand's performance is evaluated against international human rights obligations, attitudes to and services for us are included.

### **Question for candidates**

Do you support New Zealand's ratification or adoption of international disability rights instruments?