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| **Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand's logo and motto "A Whole New Attitude"** | CCS Disability Action's logo and vision "including all people". Also includes CCS Disability Action's foundation statement in Te Reo "Te Hunga Hauā Mauri Mō Ngā Tāngata Katoa" |

# Post-Election 2020 Briefing

**For Members of Parliament**

**Mojo Mathers Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand**

**Sam Murray CCS Disability Action**

Tēnā koe Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, welcome to the 53rd New Zealand Parliament. We are two of New Zealand’s main pan-disability organisations. You can find out more about us in the background section at the end of this document.

We wanted to take the opportunity to highlight data on two areas of significant inequity that disabled people and their whānau experience; income inadequacy and low trust in the police and the health system.

We need action from you and your party to address these and other inequities during this Parliamentary term.

# Data on income inadequacy

In 2020, disabled people aged 18 to 64 are the second most likely group to report not having enough income for everyday needs. They only scored 2.9% less than unemployed people.

This is despite 39.9% of disabled people aged 18 to 64 being in paid employment.

This shows that while improving employment outcomes for disabled people is vital, it will not be enough on its own to reduce income inadequacy amongst disabled people and their whānau. We also need robust disability supports and allowances to reduce the extra costs that disabled people face. Clearly, our current allowances and supports are inadequate.

We do not distribute supportequitably. Because of complex application processes Māori and Pacific disabled peoples are often disadvantaged. For example, over the last decade, New Zealand Europeans have received consistently higher amounts from the Disability Allowance than Māori or Pacific Peoples.

## Our recommendations

We need to both increase the amount of support and distribute it more fairly. To address this, in the short-term, we recommend:

* Changing the Disability Allowance to a fixed amount of at least $65.36 a week (the current maximum) and simplifying the application process.

This is likely to reduce ethnic inequality with the Disability Allowance and reduce income inadequacy amongst disabled people and their whānau.

As income inadequacy is higher amongst disabled people under 65 years of age[[1]](#footnote-1), we could make this change first for disabled people under 65 years of age. This would limit the cost of the change (in June 2019, 55.7% of people receiving the Disability Allowance were over 65), while addressing poverty amongst disabled people.

Over the medium to long-term, we need to implement the Welfare Expert Advisory Group’s recommendations. This includes:

1. getting the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Health to work out what disability-related costs they are each responsible for; and/or
2. addressing the gap between the disability support provided under ACC and the disability support provided by the Ministries of Health and Social Development (either by expanding ACC to cover all impairment causes or by increasing the support provided by the Ministries of Health and Social Development to an equivalent level as ACC).

# Data on trust

Of particular relevance is the following data on trust. In 2020, disabled people aged 18 to 64 compared to non-disabled people the same age are:

* 2.8 times more likely to have low trust in other people in New Zealand;
* 3 times more likely to have low trust in the health system;
* 1.8 times more likely to have low trust in Parliament;
* 3.7 times more likely to have low trust in the Police; and
* 1.4 times more likely to have low trust in the media.

Low trust means a score of 0 to 4 on a scale where 0 is not trusted at all and 10 is trusted completely.

The table below compares different demographic groups that are more likely to report low trust. Disabled people aged 18 to 64 are the demographic most likely to report low trust in the health system, people generally, and the police.

Of particular concern are the high rates of low trust reported by disabled people in the health system and the police. These rates indicate the need for significant work to be done in both sectors to improve awareness and understanding of disabled people. The low trust reported by disabled people is also a reflection of the negative attitudes and bias that disabled people continue to experience from wider society.

## Our recommendation

In our view, the first step is greater awareness of the low trust a sizable number of disabled people have in the police and the health system as well as in the public. As a Member of Parliament, you can help ensure disabled people are a key group that has to be considered with any reforms and/or changes, especially with the police and the health system.

# Background

## About Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is New Zealand’s pan-impairment disabled person’s organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people (of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people) are able to direct their own lives. DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people be recognised as valued members of society. DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* celebrating innovation and good practice

## About CCS Disability Action

CCS Disability Action is a New Zealand Aotearoa non-government organisation that has been advocating for disabled people to be included in the community since 1935. We provide direct support to approximately 5,000 children, young people and adults through our 18 branches, which operate from Northland to Invercargill. Our support focuses on breaking down barriers to participation. We receive a mixture of government and private funding. Upholding the rights of children is core to our work.

## About the data

This data is from a wellbeing supplement added to the Household Labour Force Survey in the June 2020 quarter. The supplement included a selection of questions from the General Social Survey. Statistics New Zealand recommends being careful when comparing this data to the General Social Survey. This is because there are differences between the two surveys. You can read more about this here:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/wellbeing-statistics-june-2020-quarter#about>

In addition to the points in the link above, the age ranges we have data on are also slightly different. The General Social Survey data is on disabled people and non-disabled people aged 15 to 64, not 18 to 64. That should not make a dramatic difference though as the disability status questions used for both surveys collect very little data from disabled people aged 15 to 18.

## Absolute sampling error

The black error bars in the first and third graphs represent the absolute sampling error. The data in those graphs comes from surveys. Because surveys only sample a fraction of the population, they are estimates. The accuracy of these estimates depends on the number of people in each group who answered a question. For example, if only 10 people in a certain group answered a question, that estimate would not be very accurate. Absolute sampling error is one way of measuring how accurate an estimate is. It calculates within a 95% probability what range the true value is likely to be. For example, if the estimate is 40% and the absolute sampling error is 5%, this means the true value is likely to be between 35% and 45% (plus or minus 5% from the 40% estimate).

## Disabled people are diverse

We have compared disabled people to other groups in society. Disabled people are diverse and overlap with these groups. Some of the disadvantage disabled people experience is because they are more likely to be Māori, Pacific peoples, unemployed, and, as children/young people, to live in sole parent households.

## Understanding age

For the data in this briefing, we have focused on younger disabled people aged 18 to 64. Overall, younger disabled people tend to have worse outcomes than older disabled people. This is because many older disabled people acquire their impairment over the age of 65. While they still face barriers, especially access barriers, they experience disability later in life when they may already have accumulated resources that help mitigate the impact of access barriers. The wellbeing differences between the age groups were explored in more detail in a Wellbeing report from December 2019:

<https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/news-and-views/research/>

Thank you for reading.

1. See pages 10 and 11 of this report for more on this: <https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/assets/resource-files/The-State-of-wellbeing-and-equality-FINAL-ONLINE2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)