

Supporting ordinary lives: a government sector perspective

**An overview of the across-government review
of long-term disability supports.**

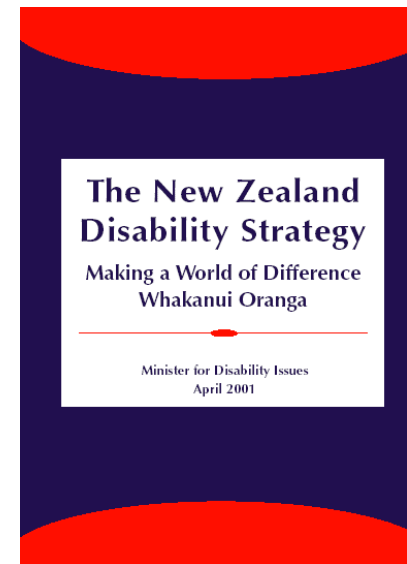
**How one key government agency (Ministry of
Health) is responding.**

**NZHHA National Conference
31 October 2006**

The vision

Disabled people:

- have equal access to opportunities - including health, employment and housing
- no longer face prejudice and discrimination
- are achieving the outcomes they wish
- say they live in a society that values their lives and enhances their full participation.



However...

- **Disabled people are less likely to:**
 - have any formal qualifications
 - be working full time
 - have good health
 - access mainstream government support services.
- **Some disabled people fare even worse** (those with multiple disadvantage who are further marginalised)

And yet....

Disabled people and
their families / whanau
aspire to the same lives
as everyone else.



For example - Rebecca

Three months ago my friend, who is also in a wheelchair, and I moved into a Housing Corporation house ... It's new and suitable for us wheelchair users, and it's rented to me – my friend pays board to me. Setting up house has been heaps of fun and it's great to do things our own way.

[Rebecca – *Life is for Living* 2005]



For example - Jean

I value my independence and just want access to the services that will help me to retain my independence and my ability to participate in my community. I like to get out and about as I believe life is for living.

[Jean – *Life is for Living* 2005]



Outcomes Framework

Overarching Goal –
Disabled people and their whanau enjoy the same opportunities, choices, responsibilities and rights as any New Zealander



Full participation in fundamental roles and life situations



Full participation in fundamental activities

Like others at a similar age and stage of life

Influences and Enablers

Many things assist people to participate and achieve fundamental activities



Key facts:

- one in five people have an impairment
- the rate of impairment increases with age – more than half of people over 65 have an impairment, and people over 85 have the highest rate of impairment
- the greatest number of disabled people are of working age
- more than 400,000 people need long-term supports to enhance independence and participation

Disability Supports are:

- Used by over 400,000 people, providing:
 - 26,000 with residential care
 - 88,000 with help to do daily tasks
 - 317,000 with assistive devices
- Funded by 10 Government agencies and ACC
- Annual expenditure est. \$2.8b



But there are problems:

- supports and system complex to navigate
- inequitable provision
- lack of service integration for whole-of-life focus
- inappropriate supports
- workforce - availability/skills

An Effective Disability Support System

Features

easy to navigate	provide certainty	provide support when and where it is needed	enable engagement in fundamental activities.
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Processes

be well integrated with and complementary to other influences on outcomes	work in partnership with disabled people and their whānau	be responsive to diversity amongst people and over time
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Investment

timely and relevant	fair and flexible	coherent and self correcting
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The way forward

- Elements of the system:
 - co-ordinated access
 - transparent, fair and consistent policies and eligibility
 - tailored and strengths based
 - accountability and continuous improvement (feedback loops)

Challenges

- plan an effective and sustainable implementation pathway
- change in culture of the system
- how to simplify the system
- change without disruption