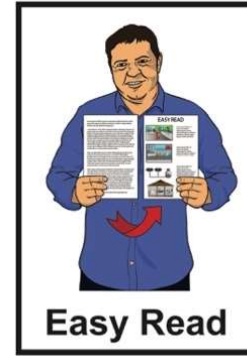




**ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



# A summary of the Disability Action Plan from Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections

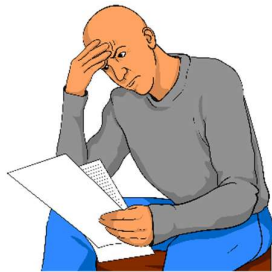


**Published: September 2023**

# Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



# What you will find in here

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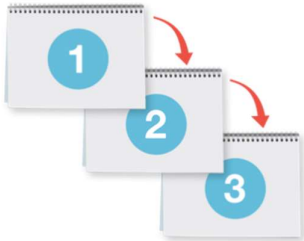
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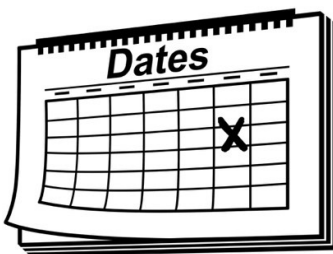
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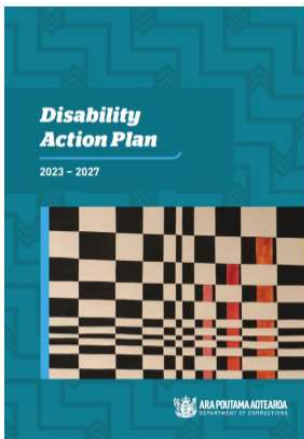


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# About this document



This Easy Read document is from  
**Ara Poutama Aotearoa –  
Department of Corrections.**



It is a **summary** of the **Disability  
Action Plan for 2023 to 2027.**



A **summary** is:

- shorter than the full document
- tells you the main ideas.



**Ara Poutama Aotearoa –  
Department of Corrections** is the  
part of the Government that looks  
after the **corrections system.**



The **corrections system** looks after:

- the running of prisons
- people who are in prison
- people who are on community sentences / orders.



In this document we will call Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections – **Corrections** for short.



You can read the full Disability Action Plan on the Corrections website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOCDAP>



The full Disability Action Plan is not in Easy Read.

# Why is the Disability Action Plan needed?



The New Zealand Government wants to make life better for everyone in New Zealand.



In 2013 Stats NZ did a Disability **Survey** that gets information from disabled people.



A **survey** is when someone asks you questions to find out information.



The survey found that around 1 person in every 4 people in New Zealand is disabled.



There are more tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people than non-Māori disabled people in:



- all of New Zealand
- New Zealand prisons.



Tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people in prisons have said they have experienced:



- **discrimination**
- **barriers.**





**Discrimination** means you are treated poorly / differently to other people for things you cannot change like:

- being Māori
- being disabled.

**Barriers** are things that make it harder for disabled people to live a good life.

**Barriers** can be things like:

- buildings that you cannot use / get into
- information that is hard to understand
- not being able to get the things / support you need to have a good life.



Health and disability support services are important to people in prison to make sure they keep well.



Tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people have said it is often difficult for them to access the health and disability support services they need in prison.

# How was the Disability Action Plan put together?



In 2021 Corrections did a survey which asked tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people to tell them about their experiences in New Zealand prisons.



The survey looked at what tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people in prison thought about:



- what was working well
- what could be made to work better
- how services for disabled people in prison could be changed / made better.





The answers people gave to the survey were used by Corrections to put together the Disability Action Plan.



Corrections also worked with other people to put together the Disability Action Plan.



Other people who told Corrections what they thought about prisons included:



- whānau / family of tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people who are in prison



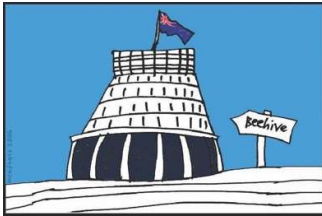
- tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people who have spent time in prison in the past.



More people who told Corrections what they thought about prisons included:



- people who are interested in / support the work Corrections does called **stakeholders**



- people from government agencies



- people who work for disability organisations.



By working with tāngata whaikaha  
Māori and disabled people  
Corrections did things in a way that  
thought about:

**Nothing about us without us.**



This saying means that:

- when decisions are being made that will affect a group of people

**then**

- the people it will affect must be part of making that decision.



## What did the answers from the survey show?



The answers from the survey showed that some things were already working well in prison.

Tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people said:



- they were usually seen by a nurse within 1 day of arriving at the prison

- the doctors / nurses in prison were usually:

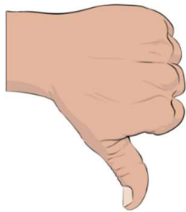


- supportive of the needs of prisoners needs
- quick to do what was needed.



Some tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people said the doctors / nurses in prison supported them to:

- know more about their disability
- be more aware of how their disability affected them.



The survey also showed that some things were not working well in prison.

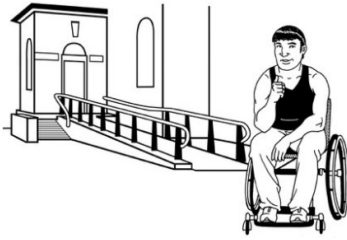


Some things in prison were not always **accessible** to tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people like:

- bed linen / sheets
- mattresses
- prison cells.







**Accessible** means a person can use / get the things they need in the ways they need like:

- beds / cells that are easy to get into
- information that is easy to understand
- equipment that is easy to use.

Other things that were not working well in prison were things like:



- when people asked for support they did not always get it when they needed it

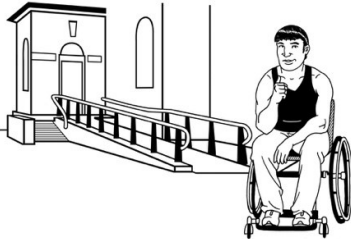


- it was difficult for people to get to appointments / programmes that would support them to stay well.



The survey also showed that some things in prisons could be made a lot better like:

- giving people in prison information about how they can stay healthy / well
- sharing what support needs people in prison have when they:
  - leave prison
  - move to another prison
- making prisons more accessible
- thinking about better support / services for disabled people in prison.



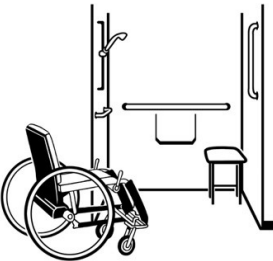
# What are the outcomes of the Disability Action Plan?



The **outcomes** of the Disability Action Plan will make things better for tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people in prison.



**Outcomes** are things that happen when the work has been done.



The outcomes include:

- making a system that is:
  - accessible
  - fair to everyone
- doing things in ways that is **mana enhancing**.





## Mana enhancing means to:

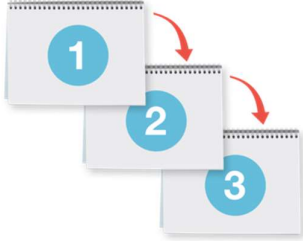
- show respect for the things people know
- build trust
- use what people know in ways that makes things better.

Another outcome of the Disability Action Plan is to make sure decisions are led by tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people.

Corrections will check to see how well these outcomes are doing by:

- looking at how well any changes that are made are working
- working with tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people to hear their feedback.

# What is the Disability Action Tracker?



The **Disability Action Tracker** is a way for Corrections to keep track of the things they will do.



The Disability Action Plan outlines many things that must be done called **actions**.

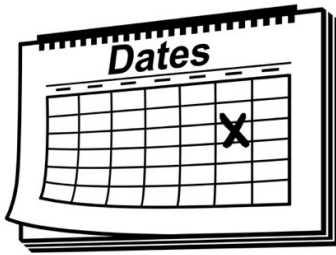


Actions that must be done straight away are called **immediate actions**.



Immediate actions should be:

- started now in 2023
- done by 2024.



Actions that must be done over a longer amount of time are called **short term actions**.



Short term actions should be:

- started in 2024
- done by 2027.



There is more information about the different actions on **pages 22 to 33** of this document.

# What are the immediate actions?



Immediate actions of the Disability Action Plan include:



- creating jobs that will look at caring for / supporting:
  - disabled and older people in prison
  - their whānau / family



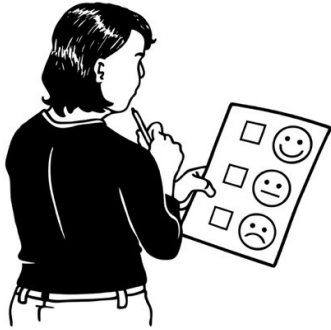
- using the **Washington Short Set of Questions on Disability**:



- when collecting information about the health of people in prison



- to make sure the right information about **ethnicity** is collected.



The **Washington Short Set of Questions on Disability** is some questions that can assist with finding out if a person has a disability / impairment.

The questions ask if a person has difficulty with things like:

- walking / moving around
- seeing
- hearing
- communicating
- understanding
- looking after themselves.





**Ethnicity** means a group of people who are part of a shared **culture**.



Some examples of ethnicity are:

- Māori
- Pacific Islander
- New Zealand European.

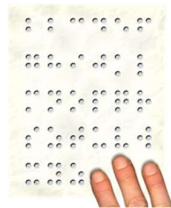
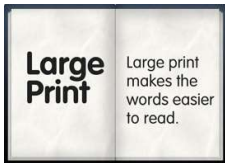


**Culture** is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.



Other immediate actions include setting up a group that can give advice about disability support to all parts of Corrections.



Other immediate actions include making the Disability Action Plan available in:

- te reo Māori
- Easy Read
- large print
- Braille
- audio
- New Zealand Sign Language.





Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include putting together a group of people who can support / speak up for people with disabilities.



These people will:

- be called disability champions
- likely also be disabled themselves.



Corrections will work with tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people to find the best ways to do this.



Corrections will also work with disability service providers to get their support with carrying out the Disability Action Plan.

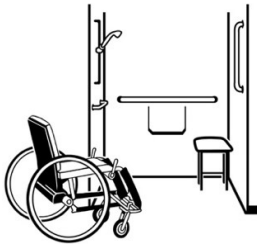


Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include working with tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people to put together a plan to make things accessible.



This includes making accessible:

- support services in Corrections
- buildings / facilities like:
  - showers
  - toilets
  - prison cells
- systems / ways of working for when things need to change.





Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include working with support groups / services in the local area.

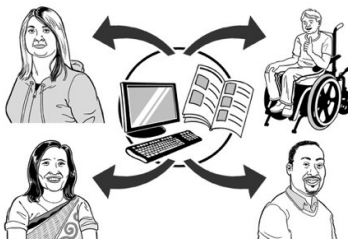


Working with other groups will make it easier for Corrections to:

- remove barriers for disabled people in prison
- find new ways of working to make things better.



Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include making sure there are good work programmes for tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people.



This will mean they can access resources to learn new skills.



Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include:

- holding a hui / meeting every 2 years from 2024 for:
  - tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people
  - their whānau / family
  - disability service providers
- putting together a plan to make sure disabled people with **complex needs** can be a part of their community when they leave prison.

**Complex needs** means someone has:

- needs that can be hard to meet
- many different kinds of needs.



Other short term actions of the Disability Action Plan include supporting people doing **research** into **neurodiversity**.



**Research** is when someone:

- looks at what has happened
- finds ways to do things better.



**Neurodiversity** means conditions that affect how the brain works.

Someone with a neurodiversity is **neurodiverse**.

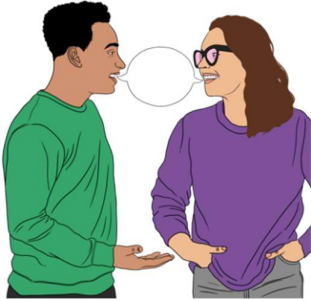


**Neurodiverse** people have brains that work differently from the brains of people who are not neurodiverse.





Someone who is neurodiverse might have a condition like:



- autism which can affect how someone:
  - thinks about things
  - understands other people



- ADHD – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder which can make it hard for someone to manage:

- the ways they feel / think
- the ways they act



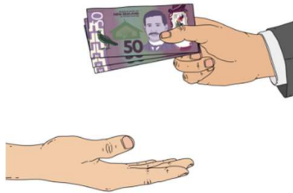
- dysgraphia which can make it hard for someone to write



- dyslexia which can make it hard for someone to read
- another condition that affects the way their brain works.



Support from Corrections for people doing research into neurodiversity could include:

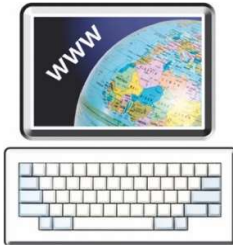


- making sure they have enough money / funding to do the research



- supporting research that is done by Māori in ways that think about things that are important to Māori.

## Where to find more information



You can read the full Disability Action Plan on the Corrections **website** at:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOCDAP>



If you have any questions about the Disability Action Plan you can get in touch with Corrections by:



- **phone** on: **04 460 3000**
- **email** at:



[info@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:info@corrections.govt.nz)

- contacting us through our Corrections **website**:



<https://tinyurl.com/3bt6bxbn>



This information has been written by  
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It has been translated into Easy Read by  
the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service  
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