



26 May 2022

Tēnā koe

On 20 April 2022, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) received your letter requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *A copy of the Disability Strategy*
2. *Information on Disability issues you hold on:*
  - a) *Disabled persons access to (and participation in) justice*
  - b) *Disabled persons issues and needs in prison*
  - c) *Issues for persons with*
    - i) *traumatic brain injury*
    - ii) *autism*
    - iii) *dementia*
    - iv) *cognitive and neurological disorders*
    - v) *mental health and mental disorders*
  - d) *Information on how ODI may be able to assist persons with disabilities, raise issues or advocate*
  - e) *List of NGOs that assist and advocate (including phone number and mailing address)*
  - f) *ODI's current focus projects and current strategic action being taken.*

On 17 May 2022, the Ministry advised you that parts 2a), b) and c) have been transferred to the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Health respectively.

Please find the Ministry's responses to the remaining parts of your request below.

1. *A copy of the Disability Strategy*

The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 to 2026 (NZDS) is publicly available at <https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/New-Zealand-Disability-Strategy-files/pdf-nz-disability-strategy-2016.pdf>. Please find a copy of it enclosed.

Furthermore, the New Zealand Disability Action Plan 2019 to 2023 (Action Plan, enclosed) describes government agency initiatives to contribute to the gradual realisation of the NZDS. The Action Plan responds to the main issues identified by

disabled people, the Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) Coalition and government agencies working together. We expect most of the work programmes to continue beyond 2023. New work programmes may be added to the Action Plan over its timeframe. The Action Plan is also available online here: <https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ODI-Disability-Action-Plan-2019-9-WEB-SINGLES.pdf>.

2. *Information on Disability issues you hold on:*

d) *Information on how ODI may be able to assist persons with disabilities, raise issues or advocate*

Since 2002, the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) has supported the Minister for Disability Issues. The ODI team is led by a Director and is based in the Ministry's Disability, Seniors and International Policy team. The ODI team does not advocate for individuals, have a service provision role or fund services for disabled people.

ODI acts as a focal point in government on disability issues. It supports the implementation in New Zealand of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and of the New Zealand Disability Strategy. ODI works towards a vision of New Zealand as a non-disabling society, where disabled people have an equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations.

In addition to serving the Minister for Disability Issues, ODI is an advisor to the public and across government on disability issues. It works closely with the disability community and seeks to amplify the voice of disabled people within government. ODI has been active in influencing other agencies and bringing attention to issues that affect disabled people and their communities.

e) *List of NGOs that assist and advocate (including phone number and mailing address)*

There are seven disabled people's organisations (DPOs) recognised under the NZDS. The national network of DPOs, the DPO Coalition, can be contacted through Gemma Griffin at [us-dpo@groups.io](mailto:us-dpo@groups.io)

The following table provides a short list of DPOs and other non-government organisations that may offer a useful starting point.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Alzheimer's NZ	Catherine Hall - CEO	<a href="mailto:catherine.hall@alzheimers.org.nz">catherine.hall@alzheimers.org.nz</a>
Blind Citizens of New Zealand	Rose Wilkinson - CEO	<a href="mailto:rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz">rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz</a>
CCS Disability Action	Melissa Smith - CEO	<a href="mailto:Melissa.Smith@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz">Melissa.Smith@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz</a>
Deaf Aotearoa	Lachlan Keating - CEO	<a href="mailto:Lachlan.Keating@deaf.org.nz">Lachlan.Keating@deaf.org.nz</a>
Disabled Persons Assembly NZ	Prudence Walker - CEO	<a href="mailto:prudence.walker@dpa.org.nz">prudence.walker@dpa.org.nz</a>
Kāpō Māori Aotearoa	Chrissie Cowan - CEO	<a href="mailto:chrissie.cowan@kapomari.com">chrissie.cowan@kapomari.com</a>
NZ Dementia Cooperative	Shereen Moloney - Director	<a href="mailto:director@nzdementia.org">director@nzdementia.org</a>
NZ Disability Support Network	Garth Bennie - CEO	<a href="mailto:garth@nzdsn.org.nz">garth@nzdsn.org.nz</a>

Te Roopu Waiora

Tania Kingi -  
Kairangahau[tania.kingi@teroopuwaiora.org.nz](mailto:tania.kingi@teroopuwaiora.org.nz)

The following information is provided to assist but may not be fully up to date. This information is publicly available.

The enclosed national list of contacts for Disability Information Advisory Services may also not be fully up to date. This list can also be viewed here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services/more-information-disability-support/disability-information-advisory-services>.

f) ODI's current focus projects and current strategic action being taken.

ODIs priorities are set out in the Briefing for the Incoming Minister 2020 (enclosed). This briefing is also available here: <https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ODI-BIM-December-2020-accessible2.docx>.

Progress is reported as part of the Ministry's Annual Report. A copy of the ODI section of the Ministry's 2020-2021 Annual Report is provided for you. This is also available online at: <https://annualreport2021.msd.govt.nz/achieving-our-outcomes/supportive-communities/we-promote-equal-opportunities-for-the-disabled-community/>.

The principles and purposes of the Act under which you made your request are:

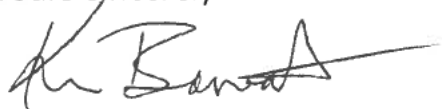
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

The Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on its website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



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Acting Director

PP Brian Coffey  
**Director**  
**Office for Disability Issues**

