

Aide-mémoire

Cabinet paper

Date: 19 November 2021 **Security Level:** Cabinet Sensitive

For: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Disability Issues

File Reference: REP/21/11/1270

COVID-19 Care in the Community

Date of meeting	Cabinet, Monday 22 November 2021
Minister	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health

Proposal	<p>This paper outlines the evolving model of care for COVID-19 patients in the community and explains next steps for scaling up the system.</p> <p>We recommend that you support the proposal, provided you seek assurances that there will be robust and ongoing monitoring to provide systematic insights on the issues for disabled people and their whānau, and how these will be addressed.</p>
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Talking points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I want to acknowledge the changes made to this paper through agency consultation to ensure we develop an approach for isolating in the community that reflects the needs of disabled people and their whānau.• I am supportive of the recommendation that disabled people and their allies are engaged in rapid design to ensure issues for disabled people are understood and designed into the approach.• It is important that disabled people and their whānau have the right supports in place to feel confident that they can isolate in the community.• The disability community will also want assurances that we are monitoring their needs, and that we are responding to and resolving any issues raised.• If disabled people feel that the isolation approaches available will not meet their needs, we may inadvertently create a situation where disabled people and their whānau do not get tested for COVID-19.• I support this paper, provided there is a commitment to implement robust and ongoing monitoring to provide systematic insights on the issues for disabled people and their whānau, and how these will be addressed.
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Our advice

Overall, we are supportive of this paper and its intent. We recommend that you seek assurances that:

- a robust and ongoing monitoring approach is implemented to provide systematic insights and intelligence on the issues for disabled people and their family/whānau
- Early issues need to be identified and responded to at a systems level as well as a personal and family/whānau level

We were consulted on this paper during agency consultation. Our feedback focussed on several key areas to build a disability perspective into the paper:

- acknowledging the current COVID-19 stressors for disabled people and their whānau
- advising on the significant risk for some disabled people and the associated high mortality rates internationally
- noting the importance of accessible information and support
- ensuring disabled people feel confident that if required to isolate, they will be supported
- requiring disabled people and their allies to be engaged in a rapid design approach to ensure the issues for disabled people are understood and designed into the COVID-19 care in the community model
 - As it is critical that early issues can be identified and responded to at a personal, whānau and systems level, we noted that the disability approach should include robust and ongoing monitoring to provide systematic insights/intelligence on the issues for disabled people and their family/whānau.

Most of ODI's views have been reflected in this paper, however the paper is silent on whether there will be a monitoring approach for disabled people and their whānau to identify and resolve issues.

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