



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

## **Disability Support Services**



# **Cabinet Paper: Improve the sustainability of Disability Support Services**

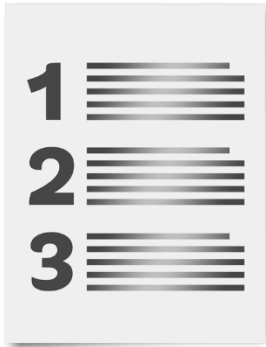


**Published: January 2025**

# About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of a **Cabinet paper**.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the full document
- includes the main points of the information.



A **Cabinet paper** is a document:

- from a **minister**
- asking **Cabinet** to agree to something.



A **minister** is an important person who works in Government.



**Cabinet** is a group of ministers that meet to make decisions.



The Cabinet paper is from Louise Upston who is Minister for Disability Issues.

In this Easy Read we will call her the Minister.



The Cabinet paper is about what needs to be done to **improve the sustainability of Disability Support Services**.



**Improve the sustainability** means making something work better so that it can work well for a long time.



## Disability Support Services:

- is part of the Ministry of Social Development
- supports disabled people / their whānau in New Zealand.

The kind of supports you can get are things like:

- money the Government gives you to pay for things you need because of your disability
- equipment you need because of your disability
- living in a home for disabled people.

## Disability Support Services

In this document we will call Disability Support Services DSS for short.



You can find the full Cabinet paper on the Ministry of Social Development **website** at:

**<https://tinyurl.com/CabinetDSS>**



The full Cabinet paper is not in Easy Read.

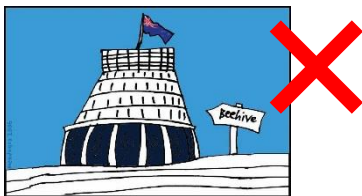
# What is the Cabinet paper about?



In 2024 the Government asked for an **independent review** of how well DSS was working.



A **review** is when someone looks at what is happening.



An **independent review** means the review was done by people who are not part of the Government.



The independent review looked at how well DSS was using the money it had.



The review was finished in June 2024.



You can read more about the review including its 7 recommendations in the Easy Read:

## **Fact sheet for people getting Disability Support Services**



You can find this Easy Read at:

**<https://tinyurl.com/46rwat6h>**

The Government made some changes to how money was spent on DSS after the review.

## What the Minister wants to change



The Minister wants to plan more changes to make sure DSS works well for a long time.



The Minister has some **recommendations** to change DSS for the better.



**Recommendations** are changes that should happen to make things better.

The Minister wants Cabinet to say yes to some **proposed** changes to how DSS funding will be spent.





**Proposed** means you have said you might do these things but want to hear what people think about them first.



## 1. Review the amount of money for residential care



The amount of money that can be spent on **residential facilities-based care** has been **frozen** until a review can be done.



**Residential facilities-based care** means special care homes for disabled people.



Here **frozen** means providers who get funding for residential facilities-based care will keep getting the same amount of money until a review is done.



The Minister recommends that the Ministry of Social Development put together a better way of funding residential care services.

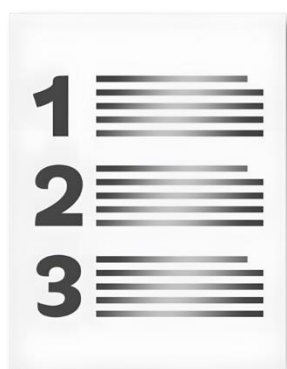


It has been 10 years since the way of funding residential care service has been talked about.



There are 3 funding options to think about.

**Option 1** means how things are funded changes to **banded rates**.



**Banded rates** work by grouping amounts of funding for each person together.

1 amount of funding that is in the middle / average of the group is chosen to be the amount of funding / rate for all the people in the group / band.

This means that instead of people having amounts of funding that are all different - all people in each group will have the same funding amount.

Banded rates make long lists of amounts of funding shorter.



Banded rates would make it simpler to pay for services in care facilities.

It would change from having over 2 thousand different amounts of money to 24 around the country.



Banded rates include money for things people may need like:

- food costs
- medical costs
- transport costs
- money to pay staff who are people who work in care homes.





**Option 2** would mean the Government would pay for a number of beds based on how many they think will be needed in the coming years.



At the moment the Government starts paying for a bed when someone moves into a care facility.



**Option 3** would make it so that **individualised rates** apply to all disabled people in a care facility.



**Individualised rates** means the amount of money a care facility gets is based on what each person living there needs.



The Minister:

- recommends **Option 1** as the best way to pay for residential care
- will come back to Cabinet with more information about option 1 in February 2025.



## **2. Making changes based on recommendations 5 and 6 of the independent review**



The independent review made 7 recommendations.



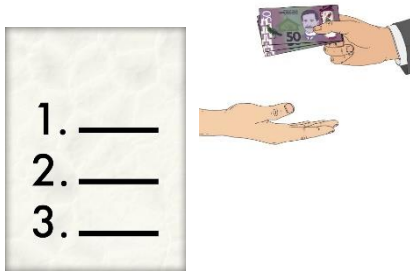
**Recommendation 5** said:

Update assessment and allocation settings.



This means that the amount of support that someone gets will be based on how much they need it.





**Recommendation 6** said:

Establish flexible funding  
criteria and review guidelines.



This means that the way the **flexible funding** system works will be looked at so that it can be made better.



**Flexible funding** means the disabled person makes decisions on how money is spent to get the things they need because of their disability.

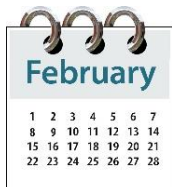


The Minister recommends  
**discussion documents** about:

- assessment
- allocation settings
- flexible funding.



**Discussion documents** are official documents that tell you about proposed changes.



These discussion documents can be seen by everyone by the end of February 2025.

You can then have your say about these proposed changes before decisions are made.



In May 2025 the Minister will ask Cabinet to agree to changes to:

- assessment
- allocation settings
- flexible funding



The Minister will also tell everyone in New Zealand:

- what changes will happen to DSS
- when the changes will happen.



This information has been written by the Ministry of Social Development.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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