



Coversheet

Strengthening Disability Support Services: Initial policy direction to test and refine through disability sector engagement

Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Disability Issues

These documents have been proactively released.

5 November 2025, Cabinet paper – Strengthening Disability Support Services: Initial policy direction to test and refine through disability sector engagement, including Appendices 1, 2 and 3

5 November, Cabinet Social Outcomes Minute SOU-25-MIN-0154, Cabinet Office.

This paper seeks agreement to the initial policy direction for strengthening the Ministry of Social Development's Disability Support Services (DSS) to enhance the consistency, fairness, transparency, and sustainability of its funded disability support. It is proposed that DSS test and refine the initial policy direction and any other operational improvements through engaging with a small number of disability sector leaders, which will inform public consultation. Authority is sought for the Ministerial Disability Leadership Group to approve materials for public consultation. Agreement to transfer a fiscally neutral underspend in Vote DSS from 2025/26 to 2026/27 is sought.

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it. This is the key to the redaction codes used for this release:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) - the confidentiality of advice under active consideration
- Section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.
- Section 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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Search Tags: Disability Support services, disability support, DSS Bill, DSS Act, public consultation, initial policy direction and materials for public consultation.