



Fortnightly Report

Week ending 24 January 2025

Confidential to the Minister for Disability Issues

Hon Louise Upston

REP/25/1/029



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Disability Support Services Delivery

Recent engagements

We continue to engage with a range of key sector stakeholders. Since the previous Fortnightly Report in early December, we have met with:

- the NZDSN Board, NZ NASCA, Parents/Family/Whānau Network, Kapo Māori Aotearoa, and the DPO Coalition.
- peak body organisations Home and Community Health Association (HCHA), Carers NZ, I.Lead – a youth disability organisation, and the Federation of Disability Information Centres about the engagement consultation work planned for 2025.

This week we have also visited Palmerston North to:

- meet with disability advocate Jane Carrigan to discuss recent case issues she has raised with us
- visit Little Stars, a service that supports children with sensory, physical, and learning challenges to reach their fullest potential in life. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about their services.

Contact: Chris Bunny, DCE Disability Support Services s9(2)(a)

Priority workstream updates

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
Design of future systems and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus remains on actions to stay within budget and assisting the NASCs to understand the requirements and expectations of the new NASC performance framework. Recent engagements with NASCs confirms they accept and largely understand budget data provided to them. We are now monitoring and analysing their budget and forecast returns. Progressing implementation planning for the Recommendation 2 residential pricing model. Developing options to implement Recommendation 4 to establish a monitoring function within DSS to monitor the performance of NASCs. Completed a gap analysis to progress work required to provide consistent and regular publication of DSS statistics externally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 January – Implementation options for Recommendation 2 completed for input to Cabinet paper. 21 February – Implementation options for Recommendation 4 – internal discussion paper completed.
Policy & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed materials to support upcoming consultation on assessment & allocation and flexible funding. We will update you shortly on the development of the online survey. Progressed the analysis of the issues consultation completed in 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late January – update to Minister on rapid review of pricing for residential care. 27 January – registration for options consultation sessions goes live with

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed the model design and commissioning approach regarding residential pricing model – Recommendation 2 	<p>Discussion document and factsheets on DSS website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 February – Discussion document translations and alt formats available on DSS website from this date. 10 February – Options Consultation survey published on DSS website and submissions open.
Capability uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalised the NASC Budget Performance Management Framework. We are meeting with providers from 31 January to 7 February to roll out the Framework. Established Commissioning Board in December 2024 Finalised Procurement Plan 2024 – 2027. This is for all providers with contracts ending during that period (633 contracts are due to expire within that period, which is 85% of all provider contracts) Completed the first tranche of supplier segmentation workshops to determine type of commissioning approach we take with each provider. This includes the type of relationship we will have with providers (strategic/developmental/transactional), the monitoring and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 January – Forensic Coordination Service (FCS) procurement closing. 27 January – Disability Abuse, Prevention and Response (DAPAR) procurement released on GETS. 31 January – 7 February introducing Budget Performance Management Framework to NASCs and assessment 18 February – Socrates Project formally established in MSD Integrated Work Programme.

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
	<p>evaluation approach; and how we measure performance and value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed initial review of costs related to Social Sector Accreditation for DSS providers. 	

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Engagements and media update

Engagement work programme

Preparations are well underway for community consultation on ways to improve DSS services across New Zealand. Registrations will open on 27 January 2025. The consultation period will start on 10 February and run until 24 March 2025.

Peak body organisations are assisting us with disseminating information to their providers and community constituencies and encouraging them to attend and provide feedback.

We are taking action to reach Māori and Pacific disabled communities who access DSS. We are leveraging our existing networks and community connections to ensure the perspectives from across the different disability groups are included in the consultation.

Media

We have not received any media queries on disability matters this month.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Updates on ongoing work

Procurement for the Disability Abuse and Prevention Response service

We are about to begin an open procurement process for the Disability Abuse and Prevention Response (DAPAR) contract.

This follows the completion of the prototype that the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha procured in 2023 via a direct-source procurement.

The DAPAR contract was initially held by People First, who sub-contracted service delivery to VisAble. DSS currently contracts VisAble to deliver the service.

DAPAR is an approach to safeguard the rights of disabled people and responds to situations of violence, abuse and neglect. This initiative is particularly important in our response to the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into abuse in care.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is informed by learnings from the DAPAR prototype, other themes emerging in DSS and the five-year focus areas of the second Te Aorerekura Action Plan for 2025-2030.

The RFP will be released via the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) in late January 2025 and will close in late February. We will update you as this work progresses.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Critical incidents reporting

In November last year, the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha provided data on critical incidents reported by contracted disability support providers for the period April 2023 to October 2024. We agreed to provide you regular updates as data becomes available. Responsibility for this reporting now sits with DSS.

This month, DSS has updated the data to include provisional data to the end of December 2024.

Summary highlights of the critical incident data follow. s9(2)(f)(iv)

Figure 1: Monthly total critical incidents by category for April 2023 – December 2024

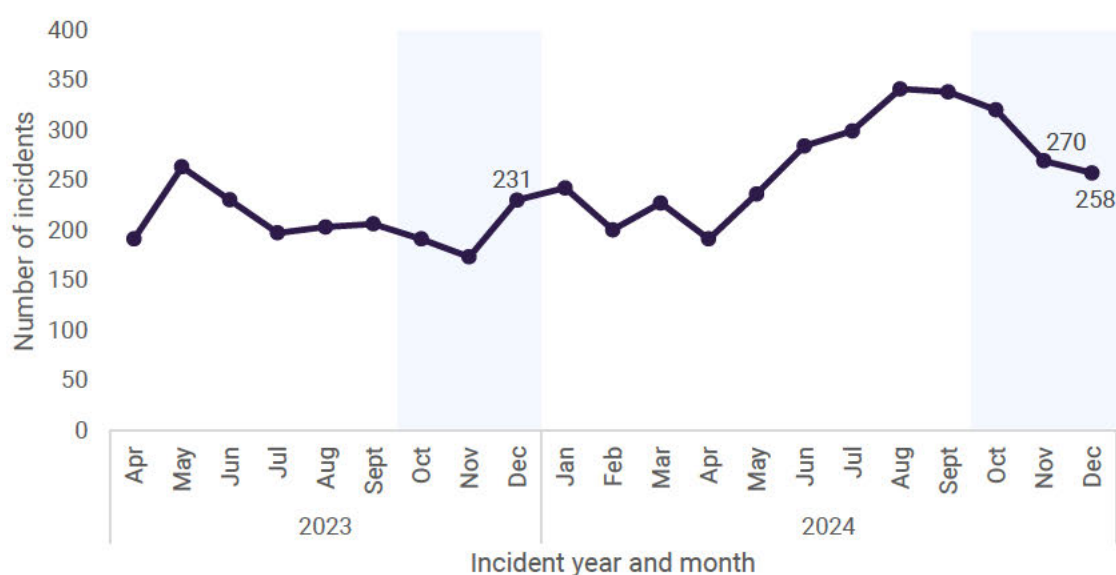


Figure 1 shows total monthly critical incidents reported from April 2023 to December 2024.

Table 2: Critical incidents by category for Q4 2023, Q3 2024 and Q4 2024

Random rounding (to base 3) has been applied

Incident Category	Q4 2023	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q4 2024 percentage increase (compared to Q4 2023)
Hospitalisation of a disabled person	162	210	195	20%
Abuse or assault by a disabled person to a non-disabled person	147	195	174	18%

s9(2)(a)

Abuse or assault of a disabled person	108	144	126	23%
Police or emergency services involved	81	165	141	74%
Serious injury of a disabled person	33	33	39	18%
Restraint or seclusion ²	21	153	114	443%
Other ³	48	75	60	25%
Total	597	975	846	

The data for incident categories in Table 1 shows that, in Quarter 4 2024, while there was a decrease across most categories from the previous quarter, there was an increase in the number of incidents in all categories compared with Quarter 4 of the previous year. The table also shows the percentage increase across these incident categories compared with Quarter 4 2023.

A number of choking incidents have also recently been reported. s9(2)(g)(i) We are also reviewing literature and best practice for preventing choking in relation to disabled people. We will present this information to providers at the National Quality Forum with service providers.

Responding to critical incidents

In the past year, we have seen an increase in provider awareness of the importance of reporting critical incidents and a more open culture of sharing and reporting on them. This is due to promotion by DSS and increased awareness of the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

Most critical incidents are reported by providers of community residential services and secure services provided under the High and Complex Framework. We can commission an investigation into a particular service if a critical incident, or series of related incidents, suggest a provider quality issue. If a critical incident identifies a safeguarding concern (eg, abuse or neglect) then we can refer the situation to DAPAR.

Provider analysis to identify incident trends

We have recently appointed a new Senior Data Analyst to drive improvements in how we collect, analyse and report on critical incidents data, to give us a better system-level view. We are also looking at whether the Severity Assessment Code (SAC), the

² The majority of these incidents relate to a small number of individuals, some of whom are under the High and Complex Framework.

³ Some categories have consistently small counts when broken down by month and therefore have been grouped into an 'Other' category, these categories are: Death of a disabled person, Incident related to external investigation or media, Missing person, Neglect of a disabled person, Unauthorised leave of a disabled person under Court Order, and Other.

rating and triage tool for adverse event reporting in health, should be applied to disability support services.

National Quality Forum

We are in the planning phase for our national DSS Quality Forum. This will be integral to our approach to improve the quality and safety of disability support services. We plan to hold the first online forum webinar in March 2025.

As part of this work, we will run a survey of key disability support providers to gauge their interest in collectively sharing and addressing quality risks across the disability support system

Future reporting

For future data reporting we propose to provide you quarterly briefings, given the level of detail in the required analysis, aggregating the thematic data, and providing detail on actions taken to respond to the critical incident analysis

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

NASC and EGL update

s9(2)(g)(i)

However, NASCs are actively working to bring themselves back within budget and we are assisting them to meet the expectations of the NASC performance framework.

We remain confident that overall EGL expenditure will be within budget by the end of the financial year.

We are supporting implementation of the NASC performance management framework. We are holding meetings with each NASC to assist them to understand the framework and for us to jointly understand how they will manage to ensure they keep expenditure within their allocated budgets by the end of this financial year.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

OIA requests

Official Information Act requests

For the week ending 24 January 2025, you received one new request for official information relating to DSS.

Requester	Topic	Due date to the Minister	Due date to the requester
s9(2)(a)	Request for all advice, briefings, memos re Residential Care	6 February 2025	13 February 2025

	and/or Residential Care Freeze		
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Upcoming papers

Upcoming Cabinet papers

Cabinet Committee	Title	Lead
SOU: 5 March 2025	Report back on the implementation of the Independent Review of DSS: final decisions on recommendation 2	Grace Campbell-Macdonald, DSS Taskforce

s9(a)(f)(iv)



Fortnightly Report

Week ending 7 February 2025

Confidential to the Minister for Disability Issues

Hon Louise Upston

REP/25/1/055



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Disability Support Services Delivery

Recent engagements

We continue to engage with a range of key sector stakeholders. In the past fortnight we have met with:

- the Chief Executive of Your Way/Kia Roha NASC about using their networks to reach Māori and Pacific providers and DSS clients.
- the Chief Executive of Home and Community Health Association, about raising awareness of the upcoming community consultation with their members.
- the Chief Executive of Carers NZ, to discuss challenges faced by disabled people, family and carers, including the recent changes to disability services following the Independent Review of Disability Support Services. We will support them with key messages for their community.
- Individualised Funding hosts, who provided us with an update on their current activity.

Contact: Chris Bunny, DCE Disability Support Services, s9(2)(a)

Options consultation for Recommendations 5 and 6

Registrations

The online registration successfully launched on Monday 27 January.

Registration numbers are tracking well, with around 200 people registered for the public online and in-person sessions as at close of business 4 February 2025. This number does not include registrations for 12 focused sessions tailored to providers and disability-specific groups. We can provide an update on those numbers once finalised.

Activity to encourage involvement

We have held face-to-face meetings with key sector leaders and stakeholders to prepare them for the upcoming consultation. These early engagements were well received and supported by the sector.

We are promoting the community consultation via:

- Targeted communications to providers, peak body organisations and key leaders within communities to help disseminate the consultation documents and registration
- Our community update video on 5 February, which will be sent directly to 1,356 recipients as well as being published on the DSS website homepage
- Our next provider newsletter on 10 February (1,050 recipients)

- A range of specialist disability media and social media channels – Facebook content has been shared with a dozen partner Facebook disability pages for publication on their pages
- An interview Chris Bunny has done with the No Labels programme on Access Radio, which runs on 11 February, aimed at the disability community.
- An online interview Chris Bunny has done with the D*List, which will run online from next week
- We are scoping other specialist disability media opportunities, including a Live Stream discussion with Manawanui via their weekly Facebook information channel
- We will continue to share these events and key messages or scripts with your office.

Public collateral to support consultation

On 27 January we published a suite of collateral on the DSS website, including the discussion document, a summary of the discussion document, two fact sheets and public facing Q&As. This is available here: [Community consultation - opens on 10 February and runs to 24 March 2025 | Disability Support Services](#)

Alternate formats are being published as they become available from this week – audio, braille and large print are already available. Some documents have been translated into Te Reo Māori, Samoan, and Tongan and are already available on the website.

The consultation web content includes a registration link and details on how people can attend an in-person or online workshop, make a submission or complete the online survey.

Planning activity

We have endeavoured to provide as many online and in-person sessions as possible for members of the public, and focused sessions for specific groups and communities. More work is being undertaken to ensure that the voices of hard-to-reach communities such as Māori and Pacific can be gathered as part of the consultation.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Priority workstream updates

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
Design of future systems and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to budget management, most NASCs are now doing their own NASC budget forecasts. • Planning has started towards designing NASC budget methodology for calculating budgets for 2025/26. • We are progressing implementation planning for the Recommendation 2 residential pricing model. Implementation considerations fed into the draft Cabinet paper that your office received on 4 Feb 2025. • Developing options to implement Recommendation 4 to establish a monitoring function within DSS to monitor the performance of NASCs. Work includes comparison with the ACC model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 February – Implementation options for Recommendation 4 – internal discussion paper completed. • 31 March – High-level view of implementation implications (recs 5 & 6) completed.
Policy and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Review of Residential Pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cabinet paper is drafted. ○ Targeted testing sessions being set up with 13 providers from 13–21 February. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 February Cabinet paper submitted to Minister as first draft. • 17–21 February departmental and Ministerial consultation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial discussions held with the Treasury about the proposed pricing model. • Summary of Submissions from Issues engagement (late 2024) is completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 March SOU Cabinet Committee. • Aiming to publish summary of submissions on the DSS website in the week beginning 10 February
Capability uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASC Budget Performance Management Framework conversations have been held with 13 of the 14 NASCs. • Commissioning governance now being provided by Commissioning Board – first meeting held on 30 January 2025. Clarified alignment with MSD Procurement Board. • Reviewed and agreed progress of commissioning approach to Regional Intellectually Disability Secure Services (RIDSS). This also includes National Intellectual Disability Secure Services (NIDSS) and Community Liaison Teams (CLT), which are part of the suite of services RIDSS providers deliver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 February – conversation with the remaining NASC about the NASC Budget Performance Management Framework. • 5 March – Disability Abuse Prevention and Response (DAPAR) provider RFP submissions close. • 3 April – Forensic Coordination Service (FCS) approval of RFP outcome.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Engagements, communications and media update

Engagement, communications and media activity has focused on the community consultation for Recommendations 5 and 6.

We have finalised the submissions analysis from the November 2024 survey and plan to publish this on the DSS website to coincide with the commencement of the options consultation on 10 February 2025. Many of the submission themes in the documents support the options we are now consulting on regarding needs assessment and allocation and access to flexible funding and the way it is used. A copy of the long-form analysis and a thematic summary analysis have been provided to your office.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Updates on ongoing work

Abuse in Care Royal Commission – launch of website to support survivors to access records

On 3 February 2025, Citizens Advice Bureau launched Kōnae, its website to inform survivors of abuse in care, others who have been in care, their families and support people about how to find and request access to their records from state and non-state organisations.

This work is an important part of the Government's response to the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry, to address challenges survivors have faced in trying to access their records.

The website link is here: [Home | Kōnae](#)

The website also provides information and guidance for people on their rights in relation to their records and what to expect from the process of requesting care records from agencies and care providers.

DSS has supported the development of this website by providing information about DSS, and by gathering information from our contracted residential providers for inclusion on the site. To date, we have received the relevant information from 84 of our 97 residential care providers.

Citizens Advice Bureau plans to do a wider communications and marketing campaign to increase awareness of Kōnae in mid- to late-February. DSS will promote it with our staff, and with our providers and the disabled community via our provider newsletter on 10 February and in an upcoming community update video.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Findings on the operation of the Review Panel process to date

We have reviewed the process and findings of the Review Panel process to date with a focus on areas of improvement and themes we are observing. We will update providers via our newsletter in the next few weeks and will update our Review Panel content and data on the DSS website.

Key themes that we have observed are:

- Inconsistent referral approaches by NASCs
- Insufficient evidence that the proposed package can be funded within the NASC/EGL site budget
- Better engagement needed to enable joint funding from other government agencies
- Long waiting times for Behavioural Support Services.

Over time, the standard of review panel applications has been improving as NASCs and EGL sites become more familiar with process and information requirements. There is a decreasing number of applications in the 'not endorsed' category.

The amendment to the Terms of Reference on 15 November 2024 that allows applications in high-risk cases when budget is not immediately available has increased the referral of residential applications to the Review Panel.

Table 1 below shows the total referrals to the Review Panel to date, including the numbers and rates of referrals that have been endorsed or not endorsed.

Table 1 Total referrals (by type) to Review Panel to 31 January 2025

Total referrals (by type) to Review Panel to 31 January 2025				
Referral type	Residential (new)	Residential (old)	Community	Total
	47	16	32	95
Of total:				
Endorsed	34	10	24	68
Not endorsed	13	6	8	27
Total:				
Percentage endorsed	72%	63%	75%	72%
Percentage not endorsed	28%	38%	25%	28%

The main reasons for Review Panel referrals not being endorsed are:

- Outside of Review Panel ToR
- Further clarification or information required
- Funding contribution from other agency needs to be determined
- No needs assessment, or incorrect pricing tool
- Out of date information provided.

Out of a total of 95 applications referred to the Review Panel, 15 of those not endorsed required resubmission. To date, 10 of those 15 resubmissions have been endorsed, and five not yet been resubmitted again.

On 5 February 2024 we are holding a second thematic meeting of the Review Panel to review the thematic analysis. We continue to look for improvement opportunities for our processes and systems and will update you further in future Fortnightly Reports.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Evaluation summary reports now published on DSS website

Disability Support Services (DSS) commissions regular audits and evaluations to ensure providers meet their contractual obligations, deliver quality services and improve outcomes for disabled people.

The evaluation summary reports are now being published on the DSS website and they are available here: [Evaluation summary reports | Disability Support Services](#). Identifiable and personal information is removed to protect privacy.

The updated summary reports aim to present information about disability support services in a clearer and more accessible way for disabled people and their whānau.

We have recently updated the evaluation summary template, which is available here: [Templates and tools for evaluators | Disability Support Services](#).

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

OIA requests

Official Information Act requests

For the week ending 7 February 2025, you received no new requests for official information.

Upcoming papers

Upcoming Cabinet papers

Cabinet Committee	Title	Lead
SOU: 5 March 2025	Report back on the implementation of the Independent Review of DSS: final decisions on recommendation 2	Grace Campbell-Macdonald, DSS Taskforce
s9(2)(f)(iv)		

Upcoming reports

Due date	Title	Description	Lead
28 February 2025	Stabilising the financial management of DSS – funded residential care	Aide-Memoire to support the Minister to take the paper seeking agreement to implementation of Recommendation 2 to SOU	Grace Campbell-Macdonald, DSS Taskforce



Fortnightly Report

Week ending 21 February 2025

Confidential to the Minister for Disability Issues

Hon Louise Upston

REP/25/2/108



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Disability Support Services Delivery

Recent engagements

We continue to engage with a range of key sector stakeholders. Meetings in the past fortnight have included:

- The Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition to discuss the community consultation.
- An online focus session with the Older People's Disability Group about the community consultation and what it means for older people.
- The acting Chief Executive of New Zealand Health Group to discuss residential care settings, safeguarding, NZHG's use of electronic visitor verification and management of health and safety issues.
- The NZDSN Board – this is one of our regular meetings with this organisation.
- The Chair of Mycare, a home care platform that helps people find in-home care support workers to fit their needs. The Chair is also a disability advocate.

Contact: Chris Bunny, DCE Disability Support Services, s9(2)(a)

Options consultation for Recommendations 4 and 5

Consultation on clearer assessment and allocation processes and options for changes to flexible funding began on 10 February and will run through until 24 March 2025.

Consultation sessions

We held 12 sessions this fortnight, including a series of in-person public consultation and focused sessions in the Wellington region. In the coming weeks, consultation sessions will continue online, and further in-person public consultation and focused sessions will be held in:

- Whangarei
- Auckland
- Hamilton
- Rotorua
- Napier
- New Plymouth
- Palmerston North
- Nelson
- Christchurch
- Dunedin
- Invercargill.

The DSS leadership team has taken a lead role in the public consultation sessions to welcome participants, set the scene around the purpose of the consultation, and to allow people attending these sessions to have a face-to-face connection with the work we are doing. During these sessions, participants are provided guidance on what to give feedback on and DSS staff have led the consultation feedback part of the sessions.

Focused sessions to date have been supported by:

- Autism NZ
- Blind Citizens NZ
- Altogether Autism.

Future sessions will be supported by:

- Aged Care Association NZ
- Carers Alliance
- Deaf Aotearoa
- Disabled People's Organisations Coalition
- Home and Community Health
- I.Lead
- New Zealand Disability Support Network
- Older Peoples' Disabled Group
- People First
- Te Ao Mārama Aotearoa (TAMA)
- Tōfā Māmao Collective.

These organisations are supporting us by communicating and connecting with their communities to ensure broad awareness of the consultation. Some organisations are also hosting our sessions in their facilities or identifying individuals or groups and supporting them to attend focused sessions.

We will develop summaries from each week's engagement to identify themes from feedback, and to support analysis to inform advice to you for Cabinet in May.

Promoting community consultation opportunities

We have continued to promote the community consultation via:

- A provider [newsletter](#) on 10 February, distributed to 1,045 subscribers.
- A press release to all national and regional media on 11 February, followed by an approach to local media to let them know about specific workshops in their area.
- A series of local Facebook ads promoting the consultation, and encouraging people to participate in local workshops in those areas.
- Providing DSS social media content to more than a dozen disability sector groups who have pages on Facebook, some of which have sizeable followings. To date, 16 disability Facebook groups have posted DSS content in 27 different

posts, encouraging people to take part in the consultation, and these posts have been shared 327 times.

- A community update [video](#) on 18 February, distributed to over 1,500 subscribers and published on the DSS website. This video was filmed outside the Newtown Community Centre to mark the first in-person workshop.

Testing assumptions with providers on the rapid review of residential pricing

We have met with 13 residential care providers and two NASCs to test the assumptions underpinning the pricing model proposed for residential care in community group homes. Providers' feedback has been positive in confirming that the assumptions are sound. Providers have highlighted the administrative load that the current system causes them, suggesting that a move to banded rates should lead to a reduction in administrative costs for providers. Minor updates have been made in response to provider feedback which do not materially affect the pricing model.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Priority workstream updates

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
Design of future systems and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation planning for Recommendation 2 continues for changes across commercial, system and stakeholder processes. An implementation report will be provided for you post SOU, in March. A project to develop the NASC budget methodology for 2025/26 budgets has been established. Some of the possible methodological considerations in the model will include disability population data, and disability functional needs data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late February – An internal discussion paper on Implementation options for Recommendation 4 will be completed. 31 March – High-level view of implementation implications (Recommendations 5 & 6) completed. March – Ministerial report back on implementation. July – NASC budget methodology for 2025/26. Methodology and new budgets will be developed, approved and communicated.
Policy and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid Review of Residential Pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial consultation on Cabinet paper is underway. Targeted testing sessions with 13 providers is underway. Sessions have been productive with a positive response from providers on the new pricing model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week of 24 February – Summary of provider responses to issues consultation published on DSS website. 5 March – SOU Cabinet committee report back on the implementation of the Independent Review of DSS: final decisions on Recommendation 2.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providers have highlighted that they will have lower administrative costs under the new model. • Community consultation on proposals started on 10 February. To date, 155 responses (to survey and submissions) received, and c.100 people directly engaged at in-person and online sessions. 	
Capability uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively managing NASC contracts in line with the NASC Budget Management Performance Framework • Procurement planning underway for applying the new pricing model in community group homes • Continued procurement planning for 2025 calendar year for all other contracts – 89 contracts expiring in 24/25 financial year, 603 in 25/26 FY and 60 in 26/27 FY. • Ongoing work to update and strengthen the Framework Standard Terms and Conditions that apply to all contracts. This will include a review of quality and safeguarding requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6–19 March Capability Uplift training with Operations Team (commissioning plans, procurement plans and budget/finance).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued work on online contract management system (anticipate go live date in September 2025).• Ongoing operational engagement with Health New Zealand, ACC and MBIE.	
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Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Engagements, communications and media update

Analysis of 2024 consultation survey

We have published the summary of themes and long-form analysis of submissions from the November 2024 DSS consultation survey on the DSS website, which is available here: [Responses to 2024 DSS survey and submissions | Disability Support Services](#)

A total of 1,501 submissions were received. The current options consultation builds on the responses received in this survey.

Media

We provided a statement to Radio New Zealand's Nine to Noon programme that ran on Tuesday, February 11 in response to issues raised by Carers NZ about cuts to packages for disability support. They estimated these reductions were between 15–50%.

Joanne Dacombe, past President of the Disabled Persons Assembly, and Jade Farrar, EGL leadership group chair, appeared on the programme. We advised the programme that peoples' packages are regularly reviewed as needs change, and that if people are unhappy with the outcome of an assessment, they should work with their NASC or EGL site to find a solution.

There has been media coverage across major platforms of a recent NZ Medical Journal article, raising concerns about hospital patients with intellectual disabilities who were unable to be discharged into disability care. This was attributed to the residential funding freeze. Your office provided responses to several media outlets on these matters.

Carers New Zealand survey on needs assessments and reviews

On February 11, Carers New Zealand launched a survey to gather feedback from the disability community about trends in recent needs assessment or reviews. Carers New Zealand is monitoring whether allocations of disability support have changed since March 2024.

Carers New Zealand will collate the survey feedback themes into a report that will be provided to the Government and the disability community. The website does not provide a closing date for this survey but notes that the themes from the survey will be collated into a report that will be provided to the Government and the disability community.

The survey link is here on the Carers New Zealand website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9RSSBHM>

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Updates on ongoing work

NASC Budget update

s9(2)(g)(i)

However, NASCs are actively working to bring themselves back within budget and we are actively monitoring this progress via the NASC performance management framework, and we expect their current projected overspends to reduce. The NASC budget line sits within the overall budget for NASCs, EGL sites and providers. As we have previously briefed you – Overall DSS has a 0.1% underspend against the YTD budget made available across these areas.

We have held the first round of NASC Budget Performance Framework meetings with all NASCs, and we have just completed the second round of contract management meetings.

The forecast for individual NASCs can change between months because there is significant variation in community support expenditure, which is difficult to forecast

s9(2)(g)(i)

There is continued pressure on residential budgets, which we are working with NASCs to monitor, particularly for high priority cases. A number of NASCs are using the changes to the Review Panel Terms of Reference to put forward high-priority cases. Ongoing exits from current residential placements will also provide some pressure relief. We are keeping a high-level monitoring across NASCs on these situations and will continue to update you in future Fortnightly Reports.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Over-18 Memorandum of Understanding with Oranga Tamariki

DSS has signed a new Over 18 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oranga Tamariki. This responds to identified issues for a small number of young people who have experienced delayed transition from Oranga Tamariki care into adult disability support services care under the existing joint agency Under 18 MoU.

The new MoU is an interim short-term arrangement to address current challenges and ensure the ongoing safe placement of this small group while stabilising work on residential pricing is completed. It will ensure safe and continuous support for young

people who have turned 18 while arrangements are made for their adult disability support services.

Under this new MOU, young people are assessed by the National Referral Centre to confirm their eligibility. Oranga Tamariki and the NASC will work together to ensure a stable placement is maintained while an appropriate adult disability service is jointly developed. The full costs of their care under the MOU will be met by DSS and the MOU sets out arrangements for this.

Oranga Tamariki remains responsible for the delivery of this care, until arrangements can be made by the NASC. These arrangements are closely monitored to ensure their transfer to standard coordination is put in place by the NASC as a priority. Long-term work is already underway to improve transition planning and to better manage prioritisation of residential care funding.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

OIA requests

Official Information Act requests

For the fortnight ending 21 February 2025 you received seven new requests for official information. We are working on responses to a further 18 OIA requests.

Requester	Topic	Due date to the Minister	Due date to the requester
s9(2)(a)	Request for copies of advice received by the Minister on the Residential Care subsidy freeze	25 February 2025	4 March 2025
	Any written advice (including, but not limited to, reports, aide-memoire, briefings) provided to Minister during the week of 3 February 2025	3 March 2025	10 March 2025
	Request for advice to Minister received regarding NASCs reducing funding to disabled people and their families	4 March 2025	11 March 2025
	Request for written advice provided to Minister on subject of NASC services and funding	5 March 2025	12 March 2025
	Any written advice provided to the Minister about Residential Care funding freeze and potential funding freezes	6 March 2025	12 March 2025
	Request for written advice to the Minister on the subject of the current work and future of Enabling Good Lives sites	7 March 2025	14 March 2025

s9(2)(a)	Request for advice and official communications regarding transfer of DSS from MDP to MSD	10 March 2025	17 March 2025
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Upcoming papers

Upcoming Cabinet papers

Cabinet Committee	Title	Lead
SOU: 5 March 2025	Report back on the implementation of the Independent Review of DSS: final decisions on Recommendation 2	Grace Campbell-Macdonald, DSS Taskforce

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Upcoming reports

Due date	Title	Description	Lead
28 February 2025	Stabilising the financial management of DSS – funded residential care	Aide-Memoire to support the Minister to take the paper seeking agreement to implementation of Recommendation 2 to SOU	Grace Campbell-Macdonald, DSS Taskforce
Mid-March	Report: Implementation plan for the Residential Pricing model	DSS' plan for implementing and communicating the new pricing model to providers	Nathan Schofield, DSS Taskforce



Fortnightly Report

Week ending 7 March 2025

Confidential to the Minister for Disability Issues

Hon Louise Upston

REP/25/3/155



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Disability Support Services Delivery

Recent engagements

We continue to engage with a range of key sector stakeholders. Meetings in the past fortnight have included:

- The Parents/Whānau/Family Network to discuss the community consultation and broader issues for the disability community.
- The CEO Provider Forum, the first meeting with the group for 2025. We have introduced a co-chairing approach, with DSS sharing the chairing duties with NZDSN to provide shared ownership of the Forum. The meeting included updates about the community consultation and the future-focused DSS work programme.

Contact: Chris Bunny, DCE Disability Support Services, s9(2)(a)

Options consultation for Recommendations 5 and 6

Consultation on clearer assessment and allocation processes and options for changes to flexible funding continues and will run until 24 March 2025.

Consultation sessions

We held 18 sessions this past fortnight, including a series of in-person public consultation and focused sessions in:

- Whangarei
- Auckland Central, East, and South
- Hamilton
- Rotorua
- New Plymouth
- Palmerston North.

In the coming fortnight, 15 further sessions will be held, including in-person public consultation and focused sessions in:

- Invercargill
- Christchurch
- Dunedin
- Nelson
- Napier.

Upcoming focused sessions will be supported by:

- Carers Alliance/Carers New Zealand
- NZDSN/Aged Care Association
- Deaf Aotearoa
- People First
- Laura Fergusson Trust
- Blind Citizens NZ.

Written and anecdotal feedback from participants about the consultation sessions has been positive regarding the organisation and accessibility. We have heard that keeping the focus on the voice of our disabled community is appreciated. The nature of each session is different depending on the groups or members of the community present or represented. All conversations have been overall positive and productive, and informative to the topics we are seeking feedback on.

Our latest stats on the community consultation include:

- 721 in-person registrations
- 370 online registrations (including provider registrations)
- 333 survey responses and submissions.

We have reached maximum capacity for public online workshops and are encouraging people to attend the remaining in-person workshops or provide feedback via the online survey or submissions channels. We are also hosting an additional informational briefing online for providers.

Spaces remain in all remaining regional focused and public sessions except Christchurch (Wednesday 12 March), which has reached venue capacity.

Promoting community consultation opportunities

We have continued to promote the community consultation via:

- A [provider newsletter](#) on 25 February, distributed to 1,039 subscribers. The newsletter included updates on the focused provider briefing sessions for the options consultation.
- The latest community update video which will be uploaded on the DSS website and sent to subscribers this week. The video includes a reminder for the community to have their say before consultation ends on 24 March. The number of subscribers to the community update is climbing steadily (1,533 recipients on 18 February, with a 48.8 percent open rate, which is above the international 'government' benchmark average).
- An ongoing series of local Facebook ads promoting the consultation, targeted by region, encouraging people to participate in workshops in those areas.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Priority workstream updates

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
Design of future systems and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of Recommendation 4 continues with a focus on its initial purpose, to monitor Recommendations 2, 5 and 6. Implementation planning for Recommendation 2 continues. The commissioning and procurement approach is being finalised. Engagement planning with staff, providers, NASCs and the broader sector is underway. Work is underway to prepare the NASC budgets for 2025/26. NASCs will be briefed later this financial year, following Budget 2025, before the new NASC budgets commence on 1 July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 March – High-level view of implementation implications (Recommendations 5 & 6) completed. March – Ministerial report back on implementation. Now to July – NASC budget methodology for 2025/26. Methodology and new budgets will be developed, approved and communicated.
Policy and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid review of pricing of Residential Care was considered at SOU on 5 March. Next steps are planning for communication of the changes and developing our implementation approach. We are working with officials from Health NZ, ACC, Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Health to ensure we have the right connections to support implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 March – Community engagement on Stabilising DSS (assessment and allocation and flexible funding) finishes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement on Stabilising DSS (assessment and allocation and flexible funding) continues with meetings across the North Island. 	
Capability uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSS Commissioning governance is now in its third meeting cycle. The group reviews commissioning plans and commercial intentions, including updates to service specifications. As part of our residential pricing work, DSS is planning to adopt a 'panel contract model' for Community Group Homes and Aged Residential Care when agreements are renewed later this year. This will enable a centralised method for managing residential contracts and for implementing service improvements, such as strengthening contractual obligations for quality services in response to the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry. We are working through how we will engage with the sector on this. NASC Budget Performance Management Framework – We continue to monitor trend data for quality measures and budgets. We regularly meet with NASCs to track risk mitigation strategies related to budget management. s9(2)(g)(i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6–19 March Capability Uplift training with Operations Team (commissioning plans, procurement plans and budget/finance) Review of quality measures and requirements in standard terms and conditions Ongoing – Continued procurement planning for priority areas

Contact: Design and Policy workstreams: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a) | Capability Uplift workstream: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Engagements, communications and media update

Media

We provided a response to Newsroom in response to concerns in an article by NZ Disability Support Network (NZDSN) about the upcoming increase in the minimum wage. NZDSN's view was that this could affect providers and their services and lead to cuts. DSS noted that the Government has accepted the Independent Review's recommendation of no price uplift in 2024/25 and confirmed it expected providers to meet their wage costs within their current contract agreements. We commented on our urgent work on a new pricing model for residential care. The new pricing model will make it easier for providers to respond to cost pressures, including the cost of labour, minimum wage increases and any pay equity settlements.

We also provided a response to New Zealand Media and Entertainment (NZME), who asked about whether AirPods Pro might qualify for a hearing aid subsidy. The AirPods have added hearing aid features. We said while AirPods Pro offered features that can assist with hearing in certain situations, they are not currently included in the approved hearing aid list.

There has been a case in the media today via Radio New Zealand in relation to a man in secure care under the High and Complex Framework, known as 'J'. This matter is currently before the court and information to this effect has been provided to the Ministry of Health to support media talking points requested by Minister Doocey's office.

The talking points from the Ministry of Health provided assurance that the forensic service concerned provides care for the most complex and high-risk persons, and that we have an expectation that government as a whole takes a thoughtful approach to caring for all people in its care, including those in all secure health and disability services.

Comms to respond to Independent Review Recommendation 2 Cabinet decisions

We are working to support any messaging and announcement following upcoming Cabinet decisions on Recommendation 2: Rapid review of pricing for residential care. The DSS website has a dedicated page on this [work](#), which will be updated shortly with two documents summarising our November 2024 engagements with providers. We will include a link to the page in our next provider newsletter, due to go out on 14 March.

We have provided your office with advice on possible Ministerial announcements and supporting departmental communications following Cabinet decisions.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)

Updates on ongoing work

DSS/Kainga Ora lease arrears

When DSS transferred from Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha to MSD, DSS inherited a bespoke arrangement with Kainga Ora for a property in the Manawatu, which is occupied s9(2)(a) This arrangement was established by the Disability Support Services Directorate within the Ministry of Health in December 2021, and was subsequently transferred to Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.

At the time of transfer, an appropriate payment mechanism was not set up, and it has recently come to our attention that DSS owes Kainga Ora \$147k in lease arrears for this property. Note that Kainga Ora has received a high level of scrutiny regarding outstanding debts, that has recently featured in the media, so the outstanding amount may be identified.

We have connected at a senior level with Kainga ora management to resolve this matter and are working closely with them to address both the payment issue and the lease arrangements. We anticipate that this work will be completed within the next month.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

OIA requests

Official Information Act requests

For the fortnight ending 7 March 2025 you received no new requests for official information. We continue to work on responses to seven Ministerial OIA requests, which have been listed in previous Fortnightly Reports. We are also working on responses to a further 19 OIA requests.

Upcoming papers

Upcoming Cabinet papers

Cabinet Committee	Title	Lead
s9(2)(f)(iv)		

Upcoming reports

Due date	Title	Description	Lead
Mid-March	Report: Implementation plan for the Residential Pricing model	DSS' plan for implementing and communicating the new pricing model to providers	Nathan Schofield, DSS Taskforce
Mid-April	Quarterly briefing: Progress on responding to the Rapid Assurance Review: Commercial Management recommendations	Quarterly reporting on this progress	Catherine Poutasi, Director Commissioning



Fortnightly Report

Week ending 21 March 2025

Confidential to the Minister for Disability Issues

Hon Louise Upston

REP/25/3/188



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Disability Support Services Delivery

Recent engagements

We continue to engage with a range of key sector stakeholders. Meetings in the past fortnight have included:

- The Hui Taumata/National Meeting with Te Ao Marama Aotearoa (TAMA) to discuss the DSS community consultation and to strengthen relationships with Māori stakeholders. We are organising a further workshop session to take TAMA through the consultation questions next week.
- The Waitaha EGL Leadership Group, where we discussed ways to stay connected.
- An introductory meeting with Prudence Walker, the Disability Rights Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission.
- Access Uru Ātea on the insights they have from providing a range of home care and personal services nationwide.
- A regular monthly engagement with NASCA to discuss progress on work to provide greater national consistency of practice, key messages to support NASCs, and feedback on performance themes across NASCs.
- A discussion about the High and Complex Framework work programme with the Ombudsman's office.

Contact: Chris Bunny, DCE Disability Support Services, s9(2)(a)

Options consultation for Recommendations 5 and 6

Consultation on clearer assessment and allocation processes and options for changes to flexible funding will run until 5pm on 24 March 2025.

Consultation sessions

We held 14 sessions this past fortnight, including a series of in-person public consultation and focused sessions in:

- Invercargill
- Christchurch
- Dunedin
- Nelson
- Napier.

Focused sessions over the past fortnight have been supported by:

- I.Lead
- New Zealand Disability Support Network

- Aged Care Association NZ
- Deaf Aotearoa
- People First
- Laura Fergusson Trust
- Blind Citizens NZ.

Our latest stats on the community consultation include:

- 756 in-person registrations
- 455 online registrations (including provider registrations)
- 497 survey responses and submissions.

In total, around 1,400 people have so far provided their feedback through one of these channels and we expect survey and submission numbers to grow more rapidly over the final week of consultation.

This week's figures do not yet include final workshop sessions in Napier, online, and with Blind Citizens NZ and Te Ao Marama Aotearoa (TAMA).

Promoting community consultation opportunities

We have continued to promote the community consultation via:

- a provider newsletter on 17 May, distributed to 1,062 subscribers
- a new community update video that will be published on the DSS website this week
- an interview with Chris Bunny on 531pi, the Pacific radio station
- a final push on Facebook in the form of social media tiles and text provided to more than 20 different groups on Facebook, for their use on their pages.

Contact: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce s9(2)(a)

Priority workstream updates

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
Design of future systems and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation planning for the residential pricing model (recommendation 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSS commissioning committee will review a residential commissioning plan on 21 March. A post-Cabinet paper press release is being developed and will be provided to your office this week. Preparations for sector engagement and communications is a key focus for the next week in anticipation of the press release and notice of intention letter to be sent to providers at the end of the month. We are working with officials from Health NZ, ACC, Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Health to ensure we have the right connections to support implementation. Work continues to prepare the NASC budgets for 2025/26. NASCs will be briefed later this financial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 April – Ministerial report back on the implementation plan for the Residential Pricing Model. <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">s9(2)(f)(iv)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 13 June – NASC budget methodology for 2025/26. Methodology and new budgets will be developed, approved, and communicated. 1 July – new NASC budgets commence.

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
	year, following Budget 2025, before the new NASC budgets commence on 1 July.	
Policy and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation on stabilising DSS (assessment and allocation, and flexible funding) continues with meetings across the North and South Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 March – Community consultation on Stabilising DSS finishes. Early April – Report on high level themes from consultation on assessment and allocation settings and flexible funding. April/May – Analysis of feedback and development of formal advice on next steps for assessment and allocation and flexible funding. Early May – Report on initial findings of community consultation and recommended options for assessment and allocation and flexible funding. <div>s9(2)(f)(iv)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 May – Final findings of community consultation (to be prepared for public release).
Capability uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the finalisation of the residential commissioning plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 March – Outcomes Agreement Management Plans under review. April – Completion of commissioning toolkit.

Workstream	Status update	Upcoming milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential services procurement planning underway – this includes market engagement in April 2024. • Developing Supplier Panel Terms and Conditions. • Ongoing implementation and application of the NASC Budget Performance Management Framework (BPMF). • Reviewing current procurement planning process to ensure the process is efficient and that procurement plans are developed well in advance. • Ongoing work to promote Government Procurement Rules and MSD's Procurement Policy, including strengthening internal capability and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April – Community Group Home Market engagement sessions.

Contact: Design and Policy workstreams: Alastair Hill, Programme Director, DSS Taskforce, s9(2)(a)
 Capability Uplift workstream: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS s9(2)(a)

Engagements, communications and media update

Communications

DSS Communications is developing a new fortnightly DSS News email for DSS staff, with a plan to launch this on 28 March. It will be forward-thinking, informative, and engaging and will keep staff informed on DSS work, including the provider newsletters, community updates, and relevant media stories.

Media

There have been several recent columns and blogs noting the anniversary of the March 18 changes to flexible funding purchasing rules.

We provided a comment to TVNZ for a story that ran at the weekend on Christchurch man Brodie Cross, who has cerebral palsy and is in hospital following a fall at his Kainga Ora home. We outlined the support DSS provides for Brodie via Enabling Good Lives, and that an application for a replacement wheelchair had been approved. Brodie's EGL connector is in regular contact with him to ensure he has the supports he needs.

The story was introduced in the context of it being six months since disability support services were moved from Ministry of Disabled People, and the views of the Health and Disability Commissioner that basic human rights were still not being met. It focused primary on the suitability of Brodie's Kainga Ora housing.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Updates on ongoing work

Quality and safeguarding framework: New research and option documents

A key piece of work to inform the development of a strengthened quality and safeguarding framework for DSS has recently been completed. We commissioned this from Sapere when DSS was within Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.

The work includes the following:

- A research paper about quality and safeguarding for disability supports, which outlines research from literature and other jurisdictions on this topic. This will be published on the DSS website in the week of 24 March 2025. The pre-publishing link is available here: <https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/quality-and-safeguarding-2>

- A paper on high-level options for a quality and safeguarding framework, for consideration. This paper will be shared within MSD to inform policy decisions on strengthening quality and safeguarding within DSS. This paper outlines challenges with the current quality and safeguarding framework, presents high-level options, and outlines next steps DSS could take to finalise a strengthened quality and safeguarding framework.

Quality and safety are key enablers for successful system strengthening. This will inform further work as DSS considers the longer-term settings for DSS quality and safety in line with the Independent Review and the MSD-wide response to the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry.

The current suite of DSS quality and safeguarding framework initiatives is available on the DSS website: [Quality and safeguarding | Disability Support Services](#).

We will continue to update you on the Quality work programme.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

Pay equity

Health New Zealand (HNZ) has been asked to provide advice to joint Ministers (Finance, State Services and Health) on the potential costs of a pay equity claim that has been lodged for the care and support workforce (CAB-24-MIN-0169 refers).

The Cabinet paper relating to this includes consideration of the costs for the care and support workforce, which is central to most of the support that DSS funds.

DSS has not yet seen the drafted/final advice that HNZ has prepared. We have fed into this work, and we understand that Health NZ is comfortable with DSS cost estimates for services delivered by providers (eg, residential care and home and community support) but they are less clear about estimates of costs for support purchased by disabled people (eg, individualised funding).

DSS is concerned about two issues that might arise from any pay-equity-driven changes in policies or increases to pay rates for care and support workers engaged through Individualised Funding (IF) and Personal Budgets (PB):

- The potential erosion of the integrity of the supports disabled people receive through a reduction in purchasing power, s9(2)(g)(i)
- The risk that increased wages, and any mechanisms for funding them, might adversely impact our ability to develop and implement s9(2)(g)(i) the Independent Review recommendations.

We will wait to see the outcome once the HNZ paper has been shared with joint Ministers, and we will update you further once we have more information.

Contact: Anne Shaw, Associate DCE, DSS, s9(2)(a)

OIA requests

Official Information Act requests

Since the previous Fortnightly Report, you received two new requests for official information. We also continue to handle an additional 20 requests for official information.

Requester	Topic	Due date to the Minister	Due date to the requester
s9(2)(a)	Copies of weekly reports, or equivalent documents, provided to the Minister during the week of 17 February 2025	17 March 2025	24 March 2025
	Any written advice provided to the Minister during the week of 3 March 2025	1 April 2025	8 April 2025

Upcoming papers

Upcoming Cabinet papers

Cabinet Committee	Title	Lead
s9(2)(f)(iv)		

Upcoming reports

Due date	Title	Description	Lead
Early April	High-level themes from consultation on assessment and allocation settings and flexible funding.	Report presenting the high-level themes from community consultation on assessment and allocation settings and flexible funding.	Stu Murphy, DSS Taskforce
Mid-April	Quarterly briefing: Progress on responding to the Rapid Assurance Review: Commercial Management recommendations	Quarterly reporting on this progress	Catherine Poutasi, Director Commissioning
20 April	Implementation plan for the Residential Pricing model	DSS' plan for implementing and communicating the	Nathan Schofield, DSS Taskforce

		new pricing model to providers	
Early May	Initial findings of community consultation and options for assessment and allocation and flexible funding.	Report presenting the initial analysis and findings from the community consultation, and the recommended options for assessment and allocation and flexible funding.	Stu Murphy, DSS Taskforce