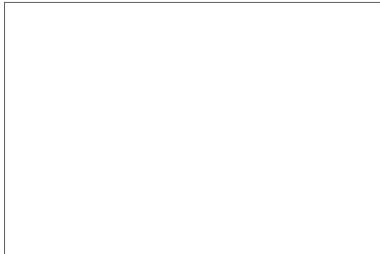




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 9 SEP 2016



On 26 July 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, a copy of the minutes for last meeting held by the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues and the minutes of the last meeting of the Chief Executive's group on Disability Issues.

Please find enclosed a copy of the '*minutes for the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues*', dated 22 September 2015 and a copy of the '*minutes for the Chief Executives' Group in Disability Issues*', dated 11 March 2016.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the quality of information received and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 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 and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This 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 after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's 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.

I hope you find this information about the meetings for Disability Issues helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MCCOY', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Megan McCoy
Director, Office for Disability Issues

minutes

OFFICE OF HON NICKY WAGNER
Minister for Disability Issues



Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues

Date: 22 September 2015 Time: 4:30pm to 5.30pm Venue: Beehive 8.5, Wellington

Attendees:

Hon Nicky Wagner, Minister for Disability Issues (Chair)
Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for Building and Housing
Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Associate Minister of Health
Hon Maggie Barry, Minister for Senior Citizens

Apologies:

Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman, Minister of Health
Hon Hekia Parata, Minister of Education
Hon Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development
Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister for Accident Compensation Corporation
Hon Craig Foss, Associate Minister of Transport

In attendance

For item 1 only

Anne Wilkinson, National Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Leadership Group
Jade Farrar, National EGL Leadership Group
Latoa Halatau, National EGL Leadership Group

For item 2 only

David Rutherford, Chief Commissioner, Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Paul Gibson, Disability Rights Commissioner, HRC

Section 9(2)(a) - Privacy of the Person

Dame Beverley Wakem, Chief Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman
Emma Leach, Assistant Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman

9(2)(a)

Mary Schnackenberg, Chair, Convention Coalition Monitoring Group (CCMG)

9(2)(a)

In attendance

Officials in attendance are appended.

1. Meeting with representatives of National EGL Leadership Group

Minister Wagner welcomed the three representatives of the National EGL Leadership Group. She invited the representatives to comment on the difference that an EGL approach can make in disabled people's lives, drawing on their knowledge of the demonstrations in Christchurch and the Waikato.

Anne Wilkinson stated that 28 disabled people and their families interviewed in Christchurch about their EGL experience felt excited about the future. Three key significant changes were reported in the interviews:

- Disabled people had more choice and independence in their everyday lives.
- Disabled people had access to personal budgets.
- The use of navigators who walk beside disabled people and help them to imagine what a good life would be like, improved disabled people's lives.

Jade Farrar told two stories about how the use of the EGL approach improved the lives of two disabled persons, and has led to a reduction in government spending.

- The disabled person in Christchurch employs their own support workers which enables them to cook, swim, attend a carpentry group etc. The transition from school has been a seamless process for this disabled person.
- The disabled person in the Waikato, a Māori man with a learning disability, has moved out of a residential home into his own place. Collaboration with his local community has played a vital role in the success of this project.

Jade advised that the EGL website contains more stories about disabled people's lives.

Latoa Halatau commented that the EGL approach is an important mechanism to gain evidence about disabled people's lives. Latoa added that the critical intervention of a facilitator/navigator early in a disabled person's life is crucial. He also noted that the families of disabled people need good information. For example, families need to be involved in the development of an education plan before disabled young people leave school.

Latoa said that a limitation of the EGL approach, so far, is that vulnerable groups are not being responded to because of the nature of the demonstrations. He indicated that a proposal will be put to Minister Wagner to consider extending the Christchurch demonstration to a third phase. This proposed third phase has been endorsed by both the local Christchurch and national EGL groups and by the joint agency group.

Associate Minister Lotu-liga commented that it was refreshing to hear stories about how the use of government services affect disabled people's lives. He also encouraged the National EGL group members to keep sharing stories as a way of demonstrating the impact of the demonstrations.

2. Annual meeting with Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM)

Minister Wagner welcomed the representatives of the IMM.

Mary Schnackenberg, CCMG, stated that the role of the Convention Coalition was to collect stories from disabled people about their everyday lives. Mary also said that the Convention Coalition has a responsibility to tell Government what it is like for disabled people.

Mary commended Minister Wagner for the Government's responses to both the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' (CRPD) Concluding Observations and the IMM's 2012 and 2014 reports. She added that the establishment of the Disability Data and Evidence Working Group was a welcome development.

Mary mentioned the recent release of the Productivity Commission's report on social services. She emphasised that human rights underpin a lot of the Commission's work. She added that she was interested in how the Commission's report links up with the Disability Action Plan.

Paul Gibson, Disability Rights Commissioner, said that the HRC is happy to work with the Government and officials to implement the recommendations in both the CRPD's Concluding Observations and the IMM's reports.

Paul observed that there is a lot in common between a human rights approach and the Government's investment approach. He emphasised the importance of taking into account how the Better Public Services (BPS) targets impact on disabled people, and how to safely dismantle those services which are not working for them. He also encouraged congruence between the BPS targets, the update of the Disability Action Plan and the revision of the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

Dame Beverley Wakem, Chief Ombudsman, endorsed Paul's comments. Dame Beverley emphasised that strong leadership and commitment on the part of Ministers and Chief Executives was of paramount importance to achieve the BPS targets. She added that collaboration between the Independent Monitors and the Chief Executives is crucial. Her final point was that enabling disabled people themselves to participate in the creation of policy was fundamentally important.

David Rutherford, Chief Human Rights Commissioner, observed that the Productivity Commission's social services report sets out a human rights framework. The report's recommendations will, in David's view, lead to good human rights outcomes for disabled people.

In response to the Independent Monitors' comments, Associate Minister Lotu-liga emphasised the importance of a greater focus on cross-agency work. In this regard, he also raised the question of how to get better data capture on disabled people. In response, Paul Gibson noted that a shared understanding of disability is needed among government agencies in order to know who we are talking about.

In response to the Independent Monitors' comments, Minister Smith queried how much attention is given about how fiscal reality can be integrated into the monitoring process. In noting concerns that the reports presented a long list of recommendations without any consideration of feasibility, Minister Smith recommended that the IMM should undertake some form of cost-benefit analysis in future.

In response to Minister Smith's comments, the Independent Monitors made the following points:

- A human rights framework recognises that we need to make hard choices.
- We need to listen to the voices of disabled people. Policies impacting on disabled people will be effective when they are themselves involved in policy development.
- Good data and sound planning are required to underpin policy development and the use of scarce resources.

3. Annual update of Disability Action

Minister Wagner reported that a public consultation on the update of the Disability Action Plan is underway. The Office for Disability Issues is leading the update process on behalf of government agencies and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). She added that the final updated Plan is expected to go out for Ministerial consultation around 17 November 2015, following endorsement by the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues and DPOs.

In attendance:

Officials from:

Ministry of Social Development:

- Brendan Boyle, Chief Executive
- Sacha O'Dea, General Manager, Ageing, Disability and International
- Megan McCoy, Director, Office for Disability Issues
- 9(2)(a) [redacted]

ACC:

- 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Ministry of Education:

- David Wales, Director of Special Education

Ministry of Health

- Chai Chuah, Director-General of Health
- 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Apologies from:

Ministry of Justice

- David King, General Manager, Civil and Constitutional

Representatives from:

Office of Hon Hekia Parata

- 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Office of Hon Anne Tolley:

- 9(2)(a) [redacted]
- [redacted]

Office of Nicky Wagner

- 9(2)(a) [redacted]
- [redacted]

Office for Disability issues

Te Tari Mō Ngā Take Hauātanga
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Minutes

Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues

Date: 11 March 2016 **Time:** 10.30am till 11.30am
Venue: Ministry of Social Development, Bowen State Building, Wellington

Attendees:

Government agencies

Brendan Boyle (Chair), Chief Executive,
Ministry of Social Development
Martin Matthews, Chief Executive, Ministry
of Transport
David King, General Manager, Civil and
Constitutional, Policy Group, Ministry of
Justice (for Andrew Bridgman)
David Wales, Director of Special Education
Ministry of Education (for Peter Hughes)
Jill Lane, Director, National Services
Purchasing, Ministry of Health (for Chai
Chuah)
Duncan Joiner, Chief Architect, Ministry of
Business, Innovation and Employment
(for David Smol)
Julie Shipton-Pasgaard, National Manager
for Serious Injury Service, ACC (for Scott
Pickering)
Julian Silver, Director, Governance Advisory
Unit, Housing New Zealand Corporation (for
Glen Sowry)

Disabled People's Organisations

Hamish Taverner, National Chairperson,
People First New Zealand
Lachlan Keating, Chief Executive, Deaf
Aotearoa New Zealand
Clive Lansink, President, Blind Citizens New
Zealand
Merv Cox, President, Deafblind New Zealand
Waddy Wadsworth, Acting Chief Executive,
Disabled Persons Assembly, New Zealand

Apologies:

Scott Pickering, Chief Executive, ACC
Andrew Bridgman, Chief Executive,
Ministry of Justice
Peter Hughes, Chief Executive, Ministry
of Education
Glen Sowry, Chief Executive, Housing
New Zealand
Chai Chuah, Director-General of Health,
Ministry of Health
David Smol, Chief Executive, Ministry of
Business, Innovation and Employment
Rajesh Chhana, Deputy Secretary,
Policy, Ministry of Justice
Pati Umaga, President, Disabled Persons
Assembly
Chrissie Cowan, Executive Office, Ngāti
Kāpo O Aotearoa
Rose Wilkinson, Executive Officer, Blind
Citizens New Zealand
Robert Hewison, President, Deaf
Aotearoa New Zealand
Cindy Johns, National Manager, People
First New Zealand

Further people in attendance and apologies are listed in Appendix 1.

Part A: Disability Action Plan 2014-2018: Joint governance with Disabled People's Organisations

Brendan Boyle extended a warm welcome to the representatives of the five Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) attending the first part of the meeting.

1. Approval of scopes for actions 2B, 4B and 12A

Brendan noted that this was the first governance meeting on the updated Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 (the Plan). Three actions in the Plan which had scoping templates completed were considered.

Action 2B – Building on work in Action 2A, identify better alternatives so that the minimum wage exemption process can be removed (jointly led by the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

Sacha O'Dea reported that she had met with the representatives of the DPOs just before the meeting. The DPO representatives had agreed to Action 2B, subject to including a further stage of consultation after it goes to Ministers.

Chief Executives' Group and DPOs' decision

The scope for Action 2B was approved.

Action 4B – A good start in life: Develop policy options to improve government supports for parents, family and whānau of disabled children aged 0-6 years (led by the Ministry of Education)

David Wales commented that there was input from both the DPOs and government agencies in the development of Action 4B. He added that there is wide intersection of this action with other agencies' related work.

In response, Lachlan Keating said that the first meeting relating to Action 4B which he had attended before Christmas 2015 was a positive one where DPOs worked well with government agencies. Lachlan added that the DPOs worked well with the Allied organisations at the meeting (IHC, CCS Disability Action, Parent to Parent, Autism NZ etc).

Chief Executives' Group and DPOs' decision

The scope for Action 4B was approved.

Action 12A – Investigate the feasibility of introducing a companion card programme in New Zealand to reduce the cost barrier for disabled people who require a companion to attend paid-entry activities (led by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage)

Mark Field-Dodgson stated that the Ministry for Culture and Heritage is currently undertaking a study on the feasibility of introducing a companion card programme in New Zealand to reduce the cost barrier for disabled people, who require a companion to attend paid-entry activities. Advice will be provided to Ministers in May 2016.

Chief Executives' Group and DPOs' decision

The scope for Action 12A was approved.

2. Progress report on implementation of Disability Action Plan 2014-2018

Brendan acknowledged the tremendous amount of work and engagement, on the part of the DPOs and government agencies, involved in the implementation of the Plan.

Martin Matthews emphasised the importance of officials being actively engaged in the implementation of the Plan.

Chief Executives' Group

The progress report on implementation of Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 was noted.

3. Relationship between government agencies and DPOs

Lachlan apologised for lateness in distributing the DPOs' paper, *Update to Chief Executives' Group on Disability*. He stated that the DPOs would look at scheduling their meetings in a way that worked well for them, and provided sufficient time for them to provide an update to the Chief Executives' Group. This scheduling would also give the Chief Executives' Group time to read papers and respond.

Clive Lansink noted that progress, so far, on the implementation of the Plan has been good. He added that the DPOs will be speaking to senior officials about issues identified in the paper. The DPOs will also be reporting back to the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues meetings on matters that they may not be able to resolve with senior officials.

Brendan noted that the Lead Toolkit for Employing Disabled People in the State Sector will be launched at Parliament on 15 March 2016. He encouraged government agencies to be represented at the launch.

The DPO representatives left the meeting at the end of Part A.

Part B: New Zealand Disability Strategy revision update

Megan McCoy reported that the Reference Group, established to support the consultation process and the development of a revised New Zealand Disability Strategy (the Strategy), is comprised of experts from and leaders in the disability sector. She added that a longer time for consultation has been built into the revision process, building on lessons learned through the updated Disability Action Plan.

Megan stated that the Reference Group wants strong leadership from government agencies (Senior Officials' Group and Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues) in the revision of the Strategy.

Martin emphasised the importance of taking a strategic approach in the revision of the Strategy.

Chief Executives' Group decision

It was agreed that, in principle, it would be good to meet with the Reference Group. This may be in a separate meeting. It was also agreed to provide the Chief Executives' Group an early opportunity to contribute to the development of the Strategy.

Part C: Stocktake on the accessibility of public transport services for disabled people

The stocktake on the accessibility of public transport is Action 10A in the Disability Action Plan, led by the Ministry of Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency. Martin indicated that there are five recommendations in the stocktake on the accessibility of public transport services for disabled people.

Martin added that we do not have good measures on the accessibility of public transport. In this regard, he noted that the move to integrated ticketing will build up understanding across government agencies.

Chief Executives' Group decision

The recommendations from the transport stocktake were endorsed.

Part D: Any other business

The importance of the governance mechanism of the Disability Action Plan 2014-2018 (Chief Executives and DPOs) operating effectively was also further discussed, in particular, the need to understand and monitor progress on the collective impact of the Plan.

Chief Executives' Group decision

Sacha O'Dea will take a lead for government agencies in providing advice to Chief Executives on the collective impact of the Plan for the next meeting with DPOs.

Section 9(2)(f)(iv) Active Consideration

Appendix 1

Others in attendance

Sacha O'Dea, General Manager, Ageing, Disability and International, Ministry of Social Development

Megan McCoy, Director, Office for Disability Issues, Ministry of Social Development

Section 9(2)(a) - Privacy of the Person

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Ref: A8736163