

From: [ODI \(MSD\)](#)
To: [Maria-Laura Crespo](#)
Cc: [ODI \(MSD\)](#); [Brian Coffey](#)
Subject: ODI input - Reconnecting New Zealanders - update on Cabinet paper drafting
Date: Thursday, 27 January 2022 10:23:18 am
Attachments: [Draft Reconnecting paper 26 Jan draft for agency consultation.docx](#)
[COVID-19 Omicron Travel Restrictions 26 January..docx](#)
Importance: High

Hi Maria-Laura

Thank you for including ODI.

We offer the following feedback:

Reconnecting paper

- Disabled people have the same rights as others to be included in opportunities to travel, including to return to New Zealand.
- It is important that any implications for and consideration of disabled people is visible so it is clear how they will be impacted. Disabled people are currently only mentioned in para 68. ODI recommends clarifying that "...and other currently eligible..." (such as at para 4) includes people with approved exemptions due to medical conditions or disability.
- ODI recommends including at para 44 "Disabled people are another population group, some of whom will be unable to self-isolate. For example, some with mobility, learning or complex disabilities will require carer and other support.
- Para 55 would see disabled people excluded if they are unable to self-isolate. Recognising the potential for isolation with their family/whānau or carer would ease this risk.
- At Para 68, please use the term "disabled people" rather than "people with disabilities". This is consistent with the preferences of disabled New Zealanders as set out in the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 to 2026.
- ODI recommends including a new para before in the section titled:
Implications of the Reconnecting Steps
"COVID-19 is already having a disproportionate effect on disabled people due to a range of factors. These include a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and of experiencing poorer outcomes of COVID-19 infection due to a higher incidence of underlying health conditions and greater need for access to health and social services, including carer support. This is compounded by experiencing higher rates of food or income insecurity, and insecure or unhealthy housing."
- Please include the Office for Disability Issues at para 90.

Ngā mihi manahau

Office for Disability Issues

Ministry of Social Development, 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556, Te Whanganui-a-Tara 6140

Phone: 029 495 0010

Email: odi@msd.govt.nz

ODI: <http://www.odi.govt.nz> |

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