

Tuawhā: Whārangi ipurangi – Kia eke te āheinga ki Aotearoa

Kua pānuitia e te Kāwanatanga me whakatū kaupapa hou, auaha hoki kia pai ake te āheinga ki Aotearoa whānui.

Ki te pīrangi a Aotearoa ki te tautoko i ngā tāngata whaikaha ki te whakatutuki i ngā mōtika tangata me mātua whakatika i ngā āheinga. Ka mutu, ka tūria e te Kāwanatanga he pou tarāwaho hou e āta kōkiri ana kia tautuhia, kia āraia, kia turakina ngā taupā ki te kuhukuhu mō ngā tāngata whaikaha, tāngata whaikaha Māori me ētahi atu e ōrite ana ngā hiahia.

Ka hikitia e tēnei pou tarāwaho hou te moemoeā me ngā mātāpono o Mana Whaikaha, ā, ka kitea te hiranga kia pai ake ai te āheinga ki te pāpori whānui, pērā ki te whare, ki te waka whenua, ki te mōhiohio, ki te whakawhitiwhiti, ki te hangarau, ki ngā whare me ngā wāhi tūmatanui. He mea hirahira rawa mō ngā tāngata whaikaha kia rongu i a rātou nō rātou hoki ō rātou hapori me te motu whānui.

He pou tarāwaho tēnei e whakaahua ana i te mahi tahi ki ngā tāngata whaikaha, ki te pūkenga o ngā tāngata whaikaha ki te whakamārama i tō rātou ake wheako e pā ana ki ngā āheinga, ki te tohutohu hoki me te whakatairanga i ngā mahi kōkiri a te Kāwanatanga kia puta ko ngā panonitanga huri noa i te rāngai tūmataiti me te pāpori whānui.

Ko tā tātou pou tarāwaho o nāianeī e whiriwhiri ana i ēnei taupā o ngā tāngata whaikaha, he whatiwhatinga, he pōturi, he uaua ki te ine, ā, kāore anō kia eke te māia o ngā kaupapa here, o te hoahoa pūnaha, o te ratonga rānei e tutuki ai tēnei whāinga kia eke te āheinga ki te pāpori.

Ko tā tātou e mōhio ana:

- He nui tonu ngā tāngata whaikaha e tautuhi ana i ngā taupā, pērā i te tomo whare, i te whiringa mātauranga me ngā whare tūmatanui.
- Nō mua nei, ko tō Aotearoa āhua mō ngā hanganga, mō ngā pae mōhiohio me te tini noa atu o ngā āheinga ki waenga i te pāpori, kore rawa i whakaaro ki ngā āheinga mō ngā tāngata whaikaha me ō rātou whakaaro kia kuhukuhu ki ō rātou hapori. Kua roa ēnei taupā e tū ana, e noho tikanga ana, ā, he pōturi ngā whakatika me te uaua hoki ki te ine.
- E tupu ana, e tūturu kawatau ana ngā tāngata whaikaha ki ngā hoahoa, ki ngā mātāpono me ngā āheinga whānui ka uru ki roto i ngā mahi, i ngā hoahoatanga. He kawatau tēnei i tua atu i ngā hanganga me ngā hanganga tūmatanui, engari ia ki te mātauranga, ki te hauora, ki ngā mōhiohio kāwanatanga me ngā ratonga whakawhitiwhiti, hui hoki. Ka tau te haepapa ki te whakaputa i ngā taupā ki runga tonu i ngā tangata whaikaha me ō rātou whāmere/whānau.

Item Four: Web copy - Making Aotearoa accessible

Government has stated that a new and innovative approach is needed to meaningfully improve accessibility in New Zealand.

Improving accessibility is vital if New Zealand is to support disabled people to achieve fundamental human rights. As a result, Government is introducing a new framework that takes a progressive approach to identifying, preventing, and removing barriers to participation for disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori, and others with accessibility needs.

This new framework will support the vision and principles of Enabling Good Lives and will recognise the importance of improving accessibility across society, including to housing, transport, information, communication, technology, public buildings and spaces. These are all really important for disabled people to participate in and feel a sense of belonging to their communities and the country.

This framework will reflect a partnership with disabled people, recognising disabled people as experts on accessibility from a lived experience perspective, and as advisors that can promote Government accountability on progress and begin to bring about changes across the private sector and wider society.

Our current framework for addressing barriers that disabled people face has been fragmented, slow, hard to measure, and hasn't led to the credible policy, system design, and service delivery needed to achieve an accessible society.

What we know:

- Many disabled people continue to identify barriers including accessing buildings, education opportunities and public facilities.
- Historically, New Zealand's built environments, information platforms and many other key features of participation in civil society have been developed with little regard for disabled people's access needs or their willingness to be full contributors to their communities. These barriers have often been long standing and systemic with improvements being slow and progress difficult to measure.
- Disabled people have a growing and legitimate expectation that universal design principles and accessibility features will be an integral part of planning and design. This expectation often extends beyond built environments and public infrastructure to education, health, government information and communication services and events. The responsibility for overcoming participation barriers too often falls unevenly on individual disabled persons and their family/whānau.

- I tēnei wā, ko ngā whakautu ki ngā hiahia e whatiwhati ana ki waenga i ngā ratonga tūmatanui, ā, ka waiho mā tēnā umanga, mā tēnā umanga e tautuhi, e whakarite hoki ngā whakatikatika. Nā konei, ka pōhēhē ko wai mā te umanga e hautū ana i ēnei take o ngā hiahia. I kitea tēnei āhua i te tau 2020, i te Noho Rāhui Taumata Tuawhā, i tino pōraruru ngā tāngata whaikaha i te korenga o ngā mōhiohio, i te korenga hoki o te āheinga ki ngā Kiripākaī Tinana.

Ko te whakanui ake i ngā āheinga mā te ture

Kua oti kē i te Kāwanatanga te kī taurangi atu, ka mau roa ngā panonitanga mō ngā āheinga.

Ko ngā panonitanga kua whakaritea, e ngana ana ki te whakatau i ngā take aukati, i ngā take kore āheinga, me te whakaū i te herenga ki runga i ngā kāwanatanga e haere ake nei.

Ko te ture motuhake hou nei e whakarite ana i te tūāpapa kia tuwheratia nuitia a Aotearoa.

Ko te Pire Accessibility for New Zealanders e tāpiri ana i ngā inenga huhua pērā i ngā tikanga ki te whiriwhiri i ngā taupā ki ngā āheinga, he aroturuki, he arotake me ngā pūrongo, he kawatau ki te mahi tahi me te whakarongo ki ngā tāngata whaikaha, tae noa ki te pūtake me ngā mātāpono mō te pou tarāwaho āheinga.

Ko te whakatū i tētahi Poari Mana Whakahaere Āheinga

Hei hoa haere i te whakahoutanga o te pūnaha whaikaha me te tautoko i te ture, ka whakatūria e te Kāwanatanga tētahi Poari Mana Whakahaere Āheinga motuhake e whai mana ai ngā tāngata whaikaha ki te whakatau kaupapa ki tēnei taumata teitei.

I runga i te karanga “nothing about us, without us”, ka ārahina te Poari e ngā tāngata whaikaha mō ngā tāngata whaikaha me ētahi pūkenga e pā ana ki ngā kaupapa here, mahinga hoki a te kāwanatanga.

He mahi whakahirahira tā te Poari ki te manaaki hoki i te mahi a te Kāwanatanga mō te whakapai ake i ngā āheinga, mā te whakatairanga i ngā āheinga, whakarite tauākī kaupapa here me te mahi aroturuki.

- At present responses to accessibility needs are fragmented across the public service and overly reliant on individual agencies to identify and appropriately prioritise remedial actions. This can lead to a lack of clear agency leadership on issues of accessibility. This was seen in the 2020 Level 4 lockdown that exacerbated existing inequities for many disabled people through lack of timely accessible information or access to PPE gear.

Improving accessibility through legislation

Government has stated its commitment to making sure that changes in the accessibility arena are lasting.

The changes are designed to address historic participation barriers and prevent accessibility issues, and to embed an ongoing obligation over successive government terms.

The new stand-alone legislation lays the foundations to make New Zealand as accessible as possible.

The Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill will include a suite of measures like methodologies for addressing accessibility barriers, monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements, expectations for engaging with and listening to disabled people, as well as the purpose and principles for the accessibility framework.

Establishing an Accessibility Governance Board

To sit alongside the disability system reform and to support the legislation, Government is also establishing an independent Accessibility Governance Board to ensure disabled people continue to be involved in decision making at the highest level possible.

In keeping with “nothing about us, without us”, the Board will be led by and represent disabled people, as well as bring in the technical expertise of government policy and business.

The Board will have an important role to play in complementing the work Government is doing to improve accessibility, by elevating accessibility, setting policy statements and monitoring progress.