



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



Update from the Minister for Disability Issues about the Disability Support Services law



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About this Easy Read

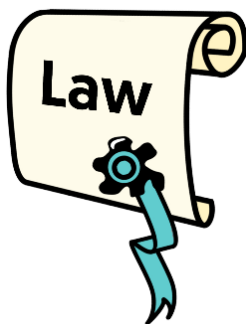


This Easy Read is an update from the Minister for Disability Issues.



The Minister for Disability Issues is Louise Upston.

The update is about the **Disability Support Services legislation / law.**



Legislation is another word for law.

A **law** is a rule made by the Parliament that everyone must follow.



In this Easy Read we will call the:

- Minister for Disability Issues the **Minister**
- Disability Support Services law the **DSS law**.

This Easy Read is a **summary** of what the Minister said about the new DSS law.

A **summary** tells you the main things.

What the Minister said



In this Easy Read some of the things the Minister said are in orange-coloured boxes.



The DSS law has passed its **final reading** in Parliament today.



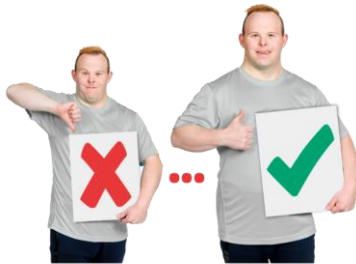
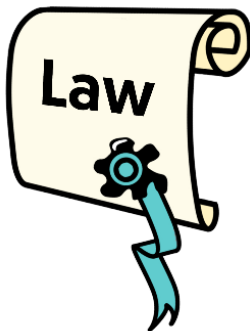
A **final reading** is the last time Parliament discusses a **bill** before voting on it.



A **bill** is a draft law.

A bill does not become a law until it passes its final reading.

The Minister said:



“The voice of the disability community is reflected in Disability Support Services legislation which passed its final reading in Parliament today.

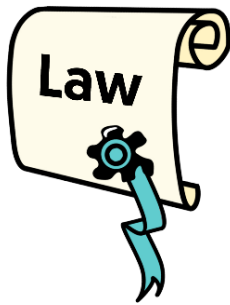
This is an important piece of legislation which helps strengthen support for disabled people and those who care for them.

Our opportunity now is to continue making **further improvements.**”

Here **further improvements** means what the Government does to keep making things better.

The Minister outlined some of the important changes to the DSS law agreed to by Parliament.

These changes are:



1) The overall intent of the DSS law is clearer.

Here **overall intent** means what the law is meant to do.



This includes being clear on:

- the role of families
- importance of:
 - choice
 - safety
 - **dignity.**



Dignity means being treated with respect.



2) The DSS law is clear that the Government will continue to support families.

The Minister said:



“...the Government, through DSS, will continue to support families by **contributing** to care for disabled people.”



Here **contributing** means Disability Support Services will provide some support for the care of disabled people.



3) The DSS law makes it clear that disabled people will have a stronger voice in future decisions.



The **future** is time that has not happened yet.



The Government must **consult** with organisations that **represent** disabled people on future **Support Programmes**.



Consult means to ask people what they think before making a decision.

Represent means to speak on behalf of a person or group.



Support Programmes are services that support disabled people.



4) The DSS law now includes the language / words used in the:

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Enabling Good Lives principles.**

Enabling Good Lives



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / UNCRPD** is an agreement many countries have agreed to.

The **UNCRPD** says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everyone else.

Enabling Good Lives



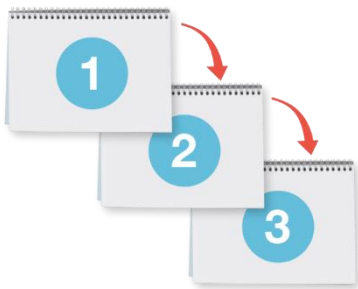
Enabling Good Lives principles say disabled people should have:

- choice and control in their life
- the support they need and want
- a good life.



“As Minister, I recognise that the intent of the Bill as first **presented** wasn’t as clear as it should have been.

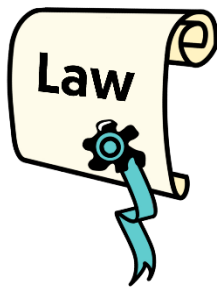
Through the Select Committee process and community submissions, we heard this and we have acted.”



Here **presented** means when the Bill was first given to Parliament.



“This legislation is important because Disability Support Services has been operating without a **legal framework**.”



Here **legal framework** means important things about Disability Support Services are part of the law like:

- what Disability Support Services does
- the purpose of / reason for Disability Support Services.

Having a legal framework means:

- these things will be clear in the law
- there will not be confusion about how they are meant to be.





“It reflects the way DSS already works.

It does not change current **eligibility**, **entitlements** or support, or introduce **income or asset testing** where it is not currently used.”



Eligibility means a person meeting the rules to get Disability Support Services.



Here **entitlements** mean what someone who is eligible for DSS support can get.



Income or asset testing means checking things like:

- how much money a person has
- what things a person owns.



“It will improve **consistency**, fairness, **transparency** and **sustainability**, building on our work after the 2024 Independent Review.”



Consistency means doing things the same way each time.



Here **transparency** means the Government is open about:

- what it is doing
- why it is doing it.



Here **sustainability** means something is done in a way that means it can be done that way for a long time.



“Over the past two years our Government has taken urgent action to introduce a **nationally consistent assessment** process, **stabilise** its services, improve its financial sustainability, and give people more choice and control over flexible funding.”



Nationally consistent means things being done the same everywhere in Aotearoa New Zealand.



An **assessment** is when someone checks if you are eligible for DSS services.



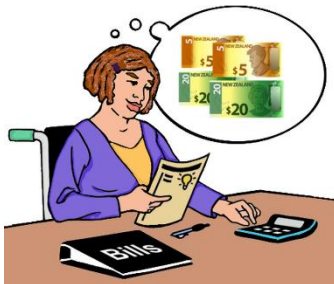
Here **stabilise** means to make something work well without changing a lot.



“We have also committed to \$2.1 billion in additional funding through **successive budgets** which means DSS now has more ongoing funding to support disabled people than ever before.”



Successive budgets means Government budgets that happen 1 after another.



A **budget** is what the Government has decided it will spend money on.



“There are more improvements needed and we will soon begin consulting with key stakeholders on a **carers’ package**.”



Here a **carers’ package** may include:

- financial support for carers of disabled people
- other support for carers of disabled people.



You can find more information about the new DSS law at this **website**:

www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/dss-leg



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

This information has been written by the New Zealand Government.

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