



New Zealand Parliament
Pāremata Aotearoa



Summary of changes to the Disability Support Services Bill



Published: August 2026

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read information is from **Disability Support Services**.

**Disability
Support Services**

Disability Support Services is part of the Ministry of Social Development.



On 13 August 2026 the **Social Services and Community Select Committee** put out a report about the **Disability Support Services Bill**.



A **select committee** is a small group of Members of Parliament.



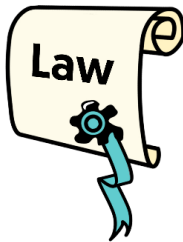
Select committees:

- look closely at **bills**
- listen to what people say about bills.



A **bill** is a **draft law**.

A **draft law** is not a law yet.



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



In this Easy Read we will call the:

- Disability Support Services Bill
the **DSS Bill**
- Social Services and Community
Select Committee the
Committee.





The Committee listened to what people had to say about the DSS Bill.



The Committee then made some **recommendations** about changes to the DSS Bill.

Recommendations are what the Committee thinks should happen.



This Easy Read is a **summary** of the changes made to the DSS Bill.

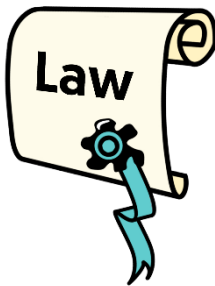
A **summary** tells you the main things.

What the Bill will do

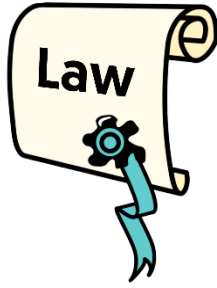


The Government wants the DSS Bill to make it easier for disabled people and their families to:

- understand how disability support services work
- feel the ways decisions are made about disability support services work well.



The DSS Bill will provide a **legal framework** for Disability Support Services.



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.

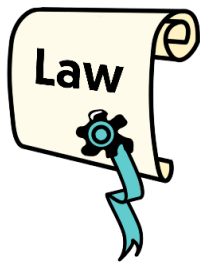
Having a legal framework means:

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



The DSS Bill says the Government must:

- ask disabled people what they think
- think about what could happen for disabled people.



The DSS Bill will make it clearer how **employment law** applies when families provide disability support.



Employment law means the rules made by the Government about work.

Key changes to the Bill

1. Family support



The DSS Bill has been changed to make it clear there are no new rules for families who care for a disabled person.



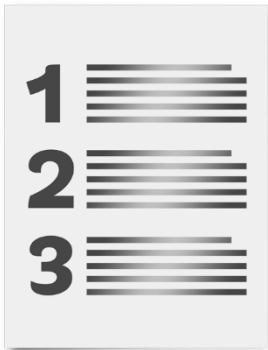
Families already do important things to support their disabled family members.

The DSS Bill now says families **contribute** to care where they can.



Contribute means families doing part of the overall care needed by the disabled person.

2. A set of principles



Principles are important ideas that guide decisions.

The DSS Bill now has a set of principles.

These principles say **decision makers** must think about things like:

- what the disabled person chooses
- the safety of the disabled person
- the **dignity** of the disabled person
- what the disabled person needs now
- what the disabled person may need in the future.





Decision makers are people who make decisions about disability support services.

Dignity means being treated with respect.

Enabling Good Lives

The new principles has ideas from **Enabling Good Lives**.



Enabling Good Lives is about having:

- choice and control in your life
- the support you need and want
- a good life.

3. Human rights

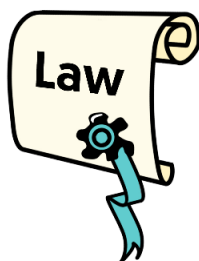


The DSS Bill uses important ideas about **human rights**.



Human rights are rights every person has.

For example everyone has the right to be treated fairly.



The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 is a law.



The DSS Bill does not change the things the Government must do under this law.

4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The DSS Bill also uses important ideas from the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



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

It is also called the **UNCRPD**.



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



This means the Government must make sure that disabled people are part of making decisions before:

- setting up a disability support services programme
- changing a disability support services programme.



It also means that disabled people are part of making decisions about:

- how they want to be supported
- the ways they take part in their community.



People will still be able to:

- make **complaints**
- ask for **reviews**.



Making a **complaint** means telling someone:

- there is a problem
- you want them to do something to fix the problem.



Review means people look closely at something to see if it is working well.

5. Disabled people will have a stronger voice



Disabled people will have a stronger voice in future decisions about Disability Support Services.



The DSS Bill says the Government must **consult** before:

- setting up a support programme
- changing a support programme.



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



The Government must consult organisations that **represent** disabled people.

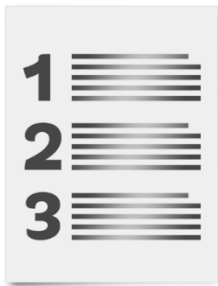


Represent means to speak on behalf of a person or group.



The Minister must also think about:

- the reason for Disability Support Services
- the new principles in the DSS Bill
- the likely **outcomes** for disabled people.



Outcomes means the things that happen because of a decision / service.



6. Review within 5 years

The DSS Bill will be reviewed in the first 5 years after it starts.



A report will be given to Parliament about how well the DSS Bill is working.

Other important information



The DSS Bill will not change the **eligibility** of who can get Disability Support Services.



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



The DSS Bill will not change what disability support services people can get.



The DSS Bill will not start **income and asset testing** where it is not used now.



Income and asset testing means checking things like:

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

People will keep getting their:

- supports in the same way they do now
- funding in the same way they do now.



Disability Support Services will keep using the same ways to do:

- **assessments**
- **allocation** of funded services.





Assessment means looking at what support a person needs.

Allocation means deciding what support a person can get.



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

www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/dss-bill

**Disability
Support Services**

This information has been written by Disability Support Services.

Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

People First NZ
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.

 **Photosymbols®**
Professional Licence 410887559

Make it Easy uses images from:



- Photosymbols
- Change Images
- Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho
- SGC Image Works
- T Wood
- Studio Rebeko
- Inga Kramer.