



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



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



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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 Bill**.



The Social Services and Community **Select Committee** has written a report about the Disability Support Services Bill.



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

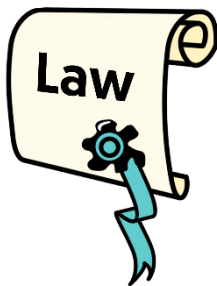
Select committees:

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

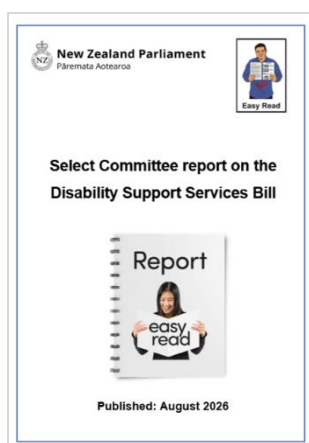


A **bill** is a **draft law**.

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



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



You can find Easy Read information about the report from the select committee on this **website**:

<https://bit.ly/45UqoTa>



In this Easy Read we will call the:

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

This Easy Read is a **summary** of what the Minister said about the report from the Committee.

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 Minister said:



“It was important this Bill went through a Select Committee process so that **submitters** could have their say.”



Submitters are people who made **submissions** / spoke to the Committee about the DSS Bill.



A **submission** is a way to tell the Committee what you think about a bill.



More than 3 thousand people made a submission about the DSS Bill to the Committee.



The Committee looked at what people said in their submissions to write their report.

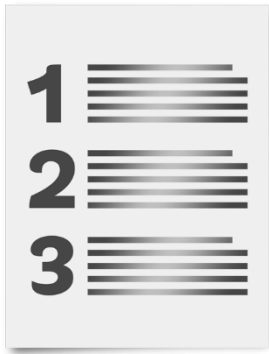


The Committee made some **recommendations**.

Recommendations are what the Committee thinks should happen.



“As a result of its recommendations, we can confirm a number of changes.”



The changes to the DSS Bill include:

1. Making it clear how Disability Support Services should work

This includes being clear about:

- what families do in caring for disabled people
- the importance of
 - choice
 - safety
 - **dignity.**



Dignity means being treated with respect.

The changes to the DSS Bill also include:



2. Making it clear that the Government will still support families caring for disabled people

Disability Support Services will assist families with caring for disabled people.



The Bill will not ask families to do more.

The changes to the DSS Bill also include:



3. Making it clear that Disabled people should have a stronger voice

This means disabled people should have more say in **future** decisions.



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



The Bill says Disability Support Services must talk with organisations that **represent** disabled people.

Represent means to speak on behalf of a person / group



The Government must do this before making decisions about future disability support programmes.

The changes to the DSS Bill also include:



4. The DSS Bill will use the language used in:

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

Enabling Good Lives



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.



Enabling Good Lives is a different way of thinking about disability support.

Enabling Good Lives is about having:

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

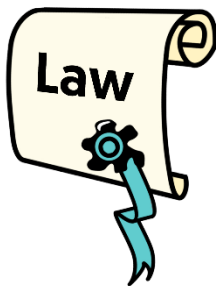




“As Minister, I acknowledge the intent of the Bill was not as clear as it should have been.

The Select Committee has heard this, and I agree with their recommended changes.

This Bill remains very important because until now, there has been no **legal framework** around 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 Bill 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.”

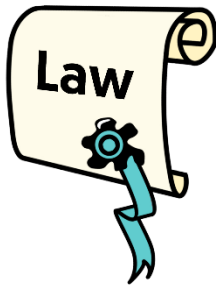


Eligible means a person meets the rules to getting disability support services.



Income and asset testing means checking things like:

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



The DSS Bill will make it fairer for everyone who needs disability support services.



The Government has agreed to more than 2 billion dollars of funding for Disability Support Services.



There will also be more improvements for **carers** coming soon.



Carers are people who care for someone close to them like a family member.

Other important information



The DSS Bill will not affect the decisions made by the Supreme Court in December 2025.



The Supreme Court found 2 people being paid to provide care to a family member were **employees** of the **state**.



Employees are people who are:

- paid to do a job
- included in laws / rules about things like:
 - how much they are paid
 - getting paid when they are sick.



State means the Government.



Disability Support Services supports around 55 thousand disabled people in:

- the community
- residential care.



Residential care is when disabled people:

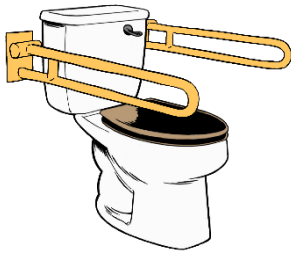
- live in a home / flat in the community
- get support all through the day and night.





There are about 100 thousand people getting **environmental support services** to assist them to take part in:

- family life
- community life.



Environmental support services can be things like:

- changing something like a bathroom so it works better for a disabled person
- supporting people to get hearing aids
- getting New Zealand Sign Language interpreters when Deaf people need them.





About 26 thousand children get child development services each year.



These services support children to reach their **developmental milestones**.



Developmental milestones are things children can do at different ages.

Developmental milestones can be things like how old children are when they start to:

- walk
- talk
- play with other children.



Where to find more information



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

www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/dss-bill



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