

Our health and disability system

Services for disabled people

Our health and disability system has not performed consistently in providing Disability Support Services (DSS) or quality health care and achieving equitable health outcomes for the disabled community.

What's changing? Why?

The shift from 20 District Health Boards to a single nationwide health system managed by Health NZ will improve the quality and consistency of care for disabled people.

A national coordinated network will also help ensure best practice care is shared amongst all disabled communities, and that care does not vary depending on where you live.

The Disability Strategy will remain a cornerstone of our health system, and direct the Ministry of Health, Māori Health Authority and Health New Zealand in delivering improved health outcomes for disabled communities.

The Government has yet to decide the future of DSS following feedback from the disabled community on the Health and Disability System Review. The Ministries of Health and Social Development will provide advice on the future of DSS later this year. That advice will follow further work with the disabled community based on the principles of Enabling Good Lives and advice developed as part of the machinery of government review of DSS.

What will it look like in future?

A wider range of primary and community care services will be available across New Zealand, developed to be more inclusive of disabled people.

A stronger consumer voice in the design of locality services and planning will give disabled people opportunities to shape services that better suit their needs and help them stay well in the community. The networking and integration of primary and community services will also make care more coordinated, minimising repetition, and ensuring carers have a better understanding of users' needs.

Health NZ will create avenues to advocate nationally to ensure best practice and service design reflect the diverse interests and needs of disabled people.

When more specialised care is needed, disabled people will have access to high quality hospital and specialist care regardless of where they live in New Zealand.

What's next?

Over coming months there will be opportunities to influence the details of how our future health system will work, including how we can ensure that Health NZ acts to continuously improve the quality and consistency of care for disabled people, across our health system.

As noted above, further decisions on the future of DSS will be made by the end of 2021.

Want to know more?

Further information about the work and progress of the health reforms is available on the DPMC website under the work of the Transition Unit:

www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/transition-unit.