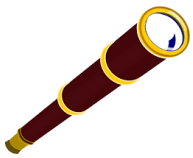


Disability Policy

Plain Language Version



Vision

Disabled people and whānau live well in caring communities.



Values and Principles

This section is about the values that guide the whole policy.

Here are the key ideas for our disability policy. They are like the stars in the Southern Cross (Te Pae Māhutonga) to guide our way.

- *Mauriora*: We have the right to learn about who we are and where we come from. We respect Māori ways of talking about disability, and different cultures that focus on our strengths.
- *Waiora*: Everyone's health is connected to nature. Nature helps us, and we should help nature in return, both now and in the future.
- *Toiora*: We should feel safe and included. We should be trusted to know how to make our own lives and communities better.

- *Te Oranga*: Our lives are more important than money or profit. We must be treated fairly and play a full part in society.
- *Ngā Manukura*: When we get to lead, we can build stronger, kinder communities together. We value our disabled leaders, elders, and young people.
- *Te Mana Whakahaere*: We should have the power to make decisions about our own lives. It should be “nothing about us without us,” in a way that also honours Te Tiriti.



Strategic Priorities

This section is about the actions that are most important to us.

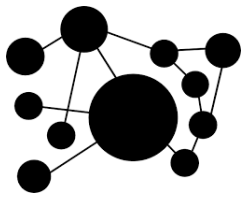
The Green Party's strategic goals include:

“A more connected, compassionate and equal Aotearoa.”

Actions in this policy that will help achieve this include:

- Make sure the international rules that protect our rights are followed (i.e., the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). (1.1.)
- Help Māori communities to support tāngata whaikaha to connect with their culture and whakapapa. (1.13)
- Make sure we can quickly and easily get enough money to cover all extra living and medical costs, no matter our relationships or how we became disabled. (3.4)

- Make sure we can all live in safe, affordable, and accessible homes in the community we choose, while stopping group homes and being put somewhere against our will. (3.11)
- Use the Enabling Good Lives approach to plan disability services and check how well they are working. (3.3)
- Help us to make our own decisions, rather than using the law to decide whether we can. (5.1)



Connected Policies

This section is about how disability connects to our other policies.

Disability action is part of many other Green Party policies, not just this one. Disability covers most policies, including [Housing and Sustainable Communities](#), [Transport](#), [Education](#), [Household Livelihoods](#) and [Workforce](#), [Health](#), [Justice](#), [Immigration](#), and [Climate Change](#). We honour the guidance in the [Tiriti o Waitangi](#) Policy. Disabled people are part of every community, so there are also things that can help us in these other policies: [Rainbow](#), [Women's](#), [Seniors](#), [Communities of Colour](#), [Tagata Moana](#), and [Rural Communities](#).

Policy Positions



1. Tikanga

This section is about doing things the right way.

Our Vision

We want to work together with policy makers to plan laws, policies, and systems that work for us and honour Te Tiriti o

Waitangi. We can join in, even when our language or culture is different from others. Public services will help us feel seen and supported.

Actions

A. Rights and Decision-making

1. Make sure the international rules that protect our rights are followed (i.e., the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
2. Create a strong disability rights law that makes accessibility normal.
3. Get rid of laws and policies that allow us to be treated unfairly.
4. Fund research that helps us to help the government make better decisions for us.
5. Every time a new law is made, say how it will affect us.
6. Help us to vote and have our voices heard by the government.
7. When disabled people move to this country, make sure they have equal access to their rights.
8. Include disabled people when we support projects in other countries.

B. Language and Culture

9. Help us learn about and take part in our cultures and communities, including important events.
10. Make captions and audio descriptions better and available in more languages.
11. Train more New Zealand Sign Language interpreters to translate te reo Māori.

12. Support the Māori sign language and digital voices that read reo Māori.
13. Help Māori communities to support tāngata whaikaha to connect with their culture and whakapapa.

C. Public Services

14. Train government workers to understand our needs and treat us fairly.
15. Make government systems for disabled people more simple and easy to use.
16. Trust us to know what we need and support us when we ask.
17. Make sure cultural safety is included in all disability policies, services, and supports.



2. Rangatiratanga

This section is about disabled people leading and making our own decisions.

Our Vision

We can be ourselves and feel proud of who we are. Our leadership is supported, and tāngata whaikaha and their whānau lead in their own way. Our organisations can help us to lead, be seen, learn, and connect.

Actions

A. Tino rangatiratanga Māori

1. Support Māori groups to decide their own priorities and ways of working as well as to shape government policy.

2. Offer 'by Māori, for Māori' support for us in both whānau-focused and disability-focused services such as Whānau Ora and Disability Support Services.

B. Leadership

3. Make sure disabled people, our families, and our organisations are involved in creating government policies that affect us, putting them into action, and checking that they work.
4. Include disabled people from many backgrounds in leadership roles across government, especially in top jobs.
5. Support us to become leaders in our communities and in government, including help to stand in local elections.

C. Disabled People's Organisations

6. Provide funding and support so disabled people's organisations can meet their goals.
7. Make sure all the different disabled people's organisations can share their ideas with the government, especially those most affected by decisions.



3. Manaakitanga

This section is about belonging to caring communities, and caring for each other.

Our Vision

Everyone cares for each other. All the services work together to help us so we can be part of our communities and our rights are respected. They understand the challenges we face and give us

the support we need. We are safe from harm, and help is ready if something goes wrong.

Actions

A. Community Services

1. Work with lots of different communities to learn how to deliver services that best understand people's experiences.
2. Make sure the government services that everyone uses are also easy for us to use.
3. Use the Enabling Good Lives approach to plan disability services and check how well they are working.

B. Targeted Supports and Services

4. Make sure we can quickly and easily get enough money to cover all extra living and medical costs, no matter our relationships or how we became disabled.
5. Give support based on what we need, not a medical label.
6. Use processes based on human rights for us to have good access to support and to complain when something goes wrong.
7. Fund services that help us find our way through the system and connect with others for support.
8. Provide good working conditions and fair pay (a living wage) for all support workers.
9. Help the families and other people who support us, and help them take breaks.
10. Fund sign language (NZSL) interpreters and tactile (touch) interpreters so we can communicate in ways that work for us.

C. Safety and Justice

11. Make sure we can all live in safe, affordable, and accessible homes in the community we choose, while stopping group homes and being put somewhere against our will.
12. Fund supports to move into or out of care, and through different life stages.
13. Choose community programmes instead of prison where possible. Make sure prisoners get the support and care they need, including after they get out of prison.
14. Make sure services that prevent violence and abuse are easy for us to access and meet our disability needs.
15. Stop putting us in rooms by ourselves against our will, while keeping everyone safe and supported.
16. Create a system that makes sure all disability services and care providers meet a high standard.



4. Hononga ki te taiao

This section is about our connection to nature and public spaces.

Our Vision

We can enjoy and care for nature. We help to make plans for a better future for the Earth. We have places to live, learn, work, and play that are easy for us to use and get around.

A. Access to Nature

1. Build more paths and places outdoors that we can use, including in nature.

2. Make it easier for us to learn about and join in outdoor activities.

B. Climate Response

3. Work with us when planning what to do and how to communicate about climate change.
4. Work with us to create a clear national plan for emergencies that will support us well.
5. Respect our needs and rights when making plans to reduce waste.

C. Accessible Spaces

6. Improve the Total Mobility scheme so it is the same across the country and there are more vehicles that are accessible.
7. Make sure changes to buildings, places, and transport that help the climate also make it easier for us to get around.
8. Build all new public buildings and spaces with universal design standards so they are easy for everyone to use.



5. Ōritetanga

This section is about equal rights.

Our Vision

We can make our own choices, with help from people we trust, if we want. We get information and communicate in ways that work for us. We can see doctors and other health supports easily and without being judged. Our rights are upheld, and we can take part in everything.

Actions

A. Self-determination

1. Help us to make our own decisions, rather than using the law to decide whether we can.
2. Allow and support disabled parents to care for our children.

B. Information and Communication

3. Make sure the information people want is available in ways we can understand and use.
4. Help us to communicate when speaking is hard for us, so we can take part in everyday life, including funding tools that give us augmentative and alternative communication.
5. Put the principles of the NZ Sign Language Act into practice.
6. Make sure media is easy for us to use by making laws about accessibility standards for captions, sign language, audio descriptions, websites and apps.

C. Healthcare

7. Make it easy and fast to get an accurate diagnosis in a way that feels respectful.
8. Make sure the health system treats us fairly, and staff are well-trained to respect us and treat us properly.
9. Make sure we can make decisions for ourselves and about our bodies in the health system.
10. Take care when considering end-of-life choices, and always protect our dignity, safety, and right to live.

D. Education and Employment

11. Make sure all schools can provide what we need to learn at school, and that they work with our families and us to make that happen.
12. Make it easy to afford tertiary (e.g. university) and community adult education.
13. Create a national plan to support us in building skills and getting jobs with good working conditions and fair pay.

E. Arts, Sport and Recreation

14. Make sure we have what we need to take part in sports and recreation at all levels, including for professionals.
15. Support groups that help us access the arts and lead our own creative projects.