Vision

Disabled people lead dignified, rich and satisfying lives.

Values and Principles

Policy decisions that impact us, as disabled people, must uphold the following values and principles:

- **Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Indigenous and collective understandings of disability should be honoured, and disproportionate inequities experienced by tangata whaikaha Māori | whānau hauā should be rectified, including having full and equitable access to culture, and whenua.
- **Ecological Wisdom:** Our leadership and wisdom should be recognised as a key pillar of environmental and climate justice.
- **Social Responsibility:** In all areas of life, we should be visible, respected, included and valued.
- **Appropriate Decision-Making:** "Nothing about us without us." We, with the support of whānau or loved ones when appropriate, should be in charge of the decisions about our lives and meaningfully shape the policies which affect our community.
- **Non-Violence:** We should not be discriminated against in any form due to disability or other marginalised identities, neither in policy nor in practice. Ableism in all its forms should be condemned. The transition to a non-disabling society should take place in a way that also addresses interconnected forms of oppression.

Summary

The Green Party will aim to build an Aotearoa where disability is valued, and policy is human rights based. We will implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all New Zealand law and policy areas so that disabled people can live with dignity and autonomy, and with any access provisions and support that they choose. We prioritise systemic advocacy including eliminating or reforming ableist laws and policies, promoting and investing in disabled leadership and advocacy, and creating regulation to promote and enforce accessibility and justice for disabled people.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party’s strategic goals include:

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1 *Disabled people:* We recognise a broad and diverse umbrella of disability, including physical, sensory, cognitive, developmental, psychosocial, neurodivergence, and chronic conditions. We understand that disability is something that changes over time.
“Poverty will be eliminated, everyone will have enough income and wealth will be held more equally.

“Healthy homes within thriving neighbourhoods will be available to everyone.

“High quality healthcare and inclusive education will be available to all.

“Our democracy will be accessible and enable inclusive, participatory decisions, where people can influence the collective choices that affect them.

“Comprehensive support for communities and individuals affected both by the transition to a net zero emissions economy and by the impacts of climate change within New Zealand and the Pacific will be well established.”

Actions in this policy that will help achieve these goals include:

- Develop and implement accessibility or disability legislation which:
  - is co-designed with disabled people;
  - is underpinned by regulatory standards which are enforced and monitored by an independent entity such as a disability commission;
  - covers central and local government, and all those providing facilities or services available to the public; and
  - does not weaken existing rights or entitlements. (5.1)
- Proactively bolster disabled people’s access to, and participation in, democratic processes. (5.3)
- Make disability-related support services, including financial support, available based on level of need, not origin of impairment, including reforming ACC into a single system for all health and disability-related income support. (3.4)
- Ensure that all disabled people are housed in safe, accessible, affordable housing in the community of our choice (...). (5.10)
- Remove all barriers for disabled people to access health services – including for medical needs unrelated to our disabilities (...). (5.21)
- Ensure the meaningful inclusion of the views and expertise of disabled people and disabled-led organisations in the design, implementation and monitoring of climate mitigation and adaptation measures, and in responding to climate-fuelled extreme weather and emergencies. (5.52)

**Connected Policies**

Disability spans across most policy areas, including but not limited to Housing and Sustainable Communities, Transport, Education, Household Livelihoods and Workforce, Health, Justice, Immigration, and Climate Change. We honour the guidance in the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy as well as the intersectionality in responding to the needs of our diverse community that makes other identity-based policies highly relevant.

**Policy Positions**

1.  **Human Rights and the Rights of Tāngata Whaikaha | Whānau Hauā**
Issues

Aotearoa New Zealand has not yet fully implemented the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This Convention should serve as a basis for disability policy, to ensure disabled people enjoy equal rights to non-disabled people.

Actions

1.1. In conjunction with disabled people and disabled people's organisations, reform relevant laws and policies to fully implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and implement the relevant UN recommendations from the UNCRPD New Zealand country review cycles.

1.2. As directed by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its associated general comment no. 1, legislate the right of everyone including disabled people to equal recognition before the law, abolish substitute decision-making, and create a legal supported decision-making framework.

1.3. Implement a mechanism by which the voice of tāngata whaiwhai | whānau hauā can be formally included in all disability-related policy and legislative development, and any Crown–Māori partnership initiatives.

2. Leadership

Issues

Disabled people are underrepresented in leadership roles in all areas of life including in the workforce, in local and central government, and in advocacy and service delivery. We are less likely to report satisfaction with career development opportunities compared to non-disabled people. Disabled people should have a powerful voice for effective change in communities and services to occur.

Actions

2.1. Advocate for effective and empowering processes and networks to strengthen the skills, confidence and community-building of disabled people and their contributions to the workforce; as a movement run by and for disabled people and our families, and as a collective at the national level.

2.2. Increase funding for leadership training for disabled people and disabled-led advocacy organisations.

2.3. Ensure disabled people are entitled to take leadership roles in evaluation and auditing of services they use, and that auditing focuses on the ability of services to meet individual needs, provide inclusive support and improve quality of life.

2.4. Ensure that tāngata whaiwhai | whānau hauā are involved in auditing all disability-related services for Māori.

3. Service Provision and Income Support

Issues
There are significant inequities, discrepancies and shortcomings within the existing disability support system. Eligibility criteria for accessing support are medicalised and restrictive, what can be funded is often prescriptive and limited, there are huge inequities between the Whaikaha-administered and ACC systems, and support for whānau caring for disabled relatives falls short.

The disability service system is currently undergoing a transformation. Whaikaha | The Ministry of Disabled People was established in 2022, to lead a partnership between the disability community, Māori and Government, and to transform the disability system in line with the Enabling Good Lives approach which moves towards a more person- and whānau-centred approach and prioritises choice and flexibility in how disability-related funding is used. However, it’s still unclear to what extent this roll-out will be adequately funded and resourced and to what extent the eligibility criteria will continue to leave some disabled people behind.

**Actions**

3.1. Establish an independent Disability Commission (separate from Whaikaha) to provide the leadership needed to ensure that disability services and other services used by disabled people become more responsive, flexible and empowering. The Commission would work with key sector leaders and families to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Enabling Good Lives strategy, and provide advice to the Minister.


3.3. Support individualised funding for all disabled people and our whānau when this is their preferred funding option.

3.4. Make disability-related support services, including financial support, available based on level of need, not origin of impairment, including reforming ACC into a single system for all health and disability-related income support (see our Accident Compensation Policy).

3.5. Ensure tangata whaikaha | whānau hauā along with whānau can access culturally appropriate support, whether in Māori or mainstream services.

3.6. Encourage provision of services to meet diverse cultural needs.

3.7. Resource and implement improved pay, conditions and training for disability service staff and caregivers.

3.8. Provide further support for families struggling to support children with high and complex needs.

3.9. Ensure levels of income support for disabled people and their whānau fully reflect the extra financial needs of living as and caring for disabled people, including:

   3.9.1. Simplifying the benefit system to establish:

      3.9.1.1. a universal base rate,
      3.9.1.2. add-ons for specific circumstances or additional needs, such as dependants, disability or chronic illness, reviewed regularly to ensure these are adequate for the needs to be met, and
3.9.1.3. discretionary additional assistance sufficient to meet the needs of beneficiaries for urgent costs;

3.9.2. Ensuring that those with a health condition or disability continue to receive a benefit regardless of relationship status, recognising the importance of this independent income for wellbeing;

3.9.3. Ensuring that those caring for adults with a disability are able to receive adequate financial support and are not subject to a work test;

3.9.4. Identifying ways to allow flexibility in the age a person may receive New Zealand Superannuation, for example to allow early entry for people with a permanent health condition or disability, lower life expectancy, or as part of a Just Transition;

3.9.5. Ensuring assessment and support systems are sensitive to the needs of people who are unable to do paid work permanently or can only work for short periods and prevent over-assessment of people with disabilities and chronic health conditions; and

3.9.6. Review the medical appeals process in line with a high-trust approach to eligibility requirements.

3.10. Introduce further service provision in rural areas.

3.11. Improve inter-agency cooperation, streamline services and reduce the complexity of funding, and make all other changes needed to eliminate the need for advocacy for basic entitlements.

3.12. Ensure that those needing intermittent care or support can access services without having to go through a screening process every time.

3.13. Establish a register for disabled people to optionally provide relevant information to people providing services and government agencies.

3.14. Prevent the abuse of disabled people whose lives are enmeshed in state care and disability service provision.

4. Protection and Advocacy

Issues

Some services still restrict access to advocates and to advocacy organisations such as People First. People who need support to communicate are at higher risk of not having their needs met, and in particular of exploitation and abuse. The Health and Disability Advocacy Service does not have the resources, capacity nor skills to meet the needs of people whose lives are enmeshed in service provision and/or who have complex needs.

Actions

4.1. Facilitate the right of disabled people to self-advocate.

4.2. Provide a free, easily accessible, well-resourced advocacy service for disabled people whose lives are encompassed by services. This service will also have the power to monitor services where people are at risk, and to educate about rights and speak out against abuse.
4.3. Support measures to encourage people, staff and services to speak out against abuse.

4.4. Reinstate the Parent Advocacy phone line to support parents needing to advocate for their children’s needs.

5. **Inclusion, Access and Affirmative Action**

**Issues**

Disabled people still face high levels of discrimination and insufficient access to services, information, communication and the built environment. This excludes many disabled people from active participation in all areas of life, and from contributing our skills, talents and abilities to our communities, through paid and voluntary work, and social activities.

**Actions**

5.1. Develop and implement accessibility or disability legislation that:

5.1.1. is co-designed with disabled people;

5.1.2. is underpinned by regulatory standards which are enforced and monitored by an independent entity such as a disability commission;

5.1.3. covers central and local government, and all those providing facilities or services available to the public; and

5.1.4. does not weaken existing rights or entitlements.

5.2. Support affirmative action on barriers to inclusion to ensure that disabled people are able to:

5.2.1. Access information about our rights in a suitable form;

5.2.2. Experience inclusive education in an appropriate form and with appropriate access and support, including all disabled children being able to attend a local school;

5.2.3. Access income support and other services according to our needs, not the origin of impairment;

5.2.4. Have equitable access to paid employment;

5.2.5. Access health and disability services that are responsive, flexible, accessible and culturally appropriate, focussed on inclusion and empowerment, and able to meet the individual needs of disabled people and of their families;

5.2.6. Be meaningfully engaged in the decision-making processes of the service providers that they use and other decision-making processes that affect the disabled community;

5.2.7. Access essential services such as public transport, communication services, health, and law;

5.2.8. Take leadership roles and have a powerful voice in order to achieve effective change in communities and services;
5.2.9. Be consulted on and have input into legislative and policy changes that affect disabled people;

5.2.10. Contribute our talents and skills to their communities, through both paid and unpaid work;

5.2.11. Be safe from discrimination, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

5.2.12. Be supported in making our own choices about their relationships, sexuality and reproductive potential; and

5.2.13. Have our reproductive autonomy and bodily integrity respected.

5.3. Proactively bolster disabled people’s access to, and participation in, democratic processes.

5.4. Encourage and fund awareness projects to raise public awareness of disability issues and support community-based action to promote respect and equity for disabled children and adults.

5.5. Support development of a fully accessible national website to inform, educate and empower disabled people on our rights.

A. Public Services

Issues

Disabled people still face barriers when interacting with Government departments. Government should lead by example on accessibility, including by upholding existing instruments like the Accessibility Charter and Web Accessibility standard, and ensuring via regulation that services provided or available to the public are accessible.

Actions

5.6. Enable a comprehensive nation-wide roll-out of Enabling Good Lives in line with the EGL principles.

5.7. Ensure that all government websites are accessible to people with disabilities by increasing monitoring and enforcing the Web Accessibility Standard and supporting the development of assistive technologies for those with disabilities (see our Digital Policy).

5.8. Ensure that public facilities and services are fully accessible through measures such as New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreters, barrier-free buildings, and documents in alternate formats.

5.9. Include disability awareness in all qualifications, training programmes, induction courses, and ongoing professional development for those who work in public services, particularly those that deal directly with the public every day.

B. Housing and the Urban Environment

Issues

There is no legal right to adequate housing in New Zealand law, despite Aotearoa New Zealand being a signatory to international conventions that recognise it. There is a severe lack of accessible, modified housing for disabled people across the housing sector. Profit motives and a
lack of engagement leads to design plans that further the preferences of the developers over the needs of residents. This is of particular concern to disabled people.

Many disabled people, particularly people with learning disability, continue to live in residential service settings in which they lack genuine choices about who they live with, how they access supports and services and what their daily lives encompass.

**Actions**

5.10. Ensure that all disabled people are housed in safe, accessible, affordable housing in the community of our choice, including by:

5.10.1. Enshrining the right for all New Zealanders to housing in legislation and policy in line with the UNCRPD and NZ Disability Strategy, requiring the Government to ensure everyone is housed in safe, healthy, accessible, affordable housing, and requiring that disabled people can choose where and with whom they live;

5.10.2. Providing a housing-first approach with wrap-around services and support for people who have both housing needs and other complex needs;

5.10.3. Adopting a public housing framework which ensures all new public housing meets universal design and accessibility standards which will particularly benefit disabled people, and existing public housing will be retrofitted to meet universal design standards over an agreed timeframe;

5.10.4. Ensuring processes for housing modifications are timely, straightforward and transparent with eligibility and funding should be revised based on need, not arbitrary criteria;

5.10.5. Providing disabled people with choices equal to others about where and with whom they live and the support they receive. This should include: the need for support to transition from residential services to living in the community; and modification funding for people living on papakāinga;

5.10.6. Ensure the safety of disabled people in all new and existing housing, including processes so that those who cannot use stairs can evacuate in case of an emergency and visual fire alarms in all housing; and

5.10.7. Acting to provide accessible housing, and mandating that disabled people must have an accessible house before ending a tenancy.

5.11. Make our urban environment fully accessible, including through:

5.11.1. Encouraging measures which enhance safety on footpaths for all footpath users, especially taking into account the presence of micromobility devices and bikes on footpaths where no separated cycle lanes exist;

5.11.2. building infrastructure for micromobility to reduce conflict with other footpath users; and

5.11.3. ensuring that flat, accessible mobility parking and drop-off spots continue to be available even as we move away from car-dependent city planning.

**C. Transport**
Issues
Transport infrastructure, particularly public transport, has traditionally been designed to get able-bodied male commuters to work. Public transport is often expensive, which discourages many people from using it. This especially affects young people, students, disabled people and those on low incomes. Many people, especially marginalised groups, often feel unsafe and experience, or fear, harassment or violence when using public transport or walking, particularly at night. As we decarbonise our society, it's important that infrastructure and transport transitions prioritise disabled people's expertise and become an opportunity to increase access to a slate of options for disabled people to travel with ease and autonomy.

Actions
5.12. Develop and implement a national mobility scheme that builds the highest possible level of independence for disabled people.
5.13. Increase the quantity and coverage of fully-accessible on-demand services (i.e. accessible taxis, on-demand busses);
5.14. Require that public infrastructure spend meets the highest possible accessibility standards and is co-designed with disabled people and our representative organisations;
5.15. Progressively upgrade bus stops, train stations and vehicles to meet accessibility requirements;
5.16. Favour light rail, which can be boarded more easily, on main routes; and
5.17. Include rural buses and inter-regional buses in relevant accessibility standards.
5.18. Strive to ensure people with physical accessibility needs have equitable access to EVs, including adaptations to the vehicles, subsidies, and accessible EV charging stations.
5.19. Ensure that vehicle safety measures take into account the needs of disabled people

D. Health

Issues
Under Te Whatu Ora's Te Pae Tata | Interim Health Plan, disabled people are a priority group for the first time. However, significant and pervasive inequities still exist for disabled people in accessing healthcare aligned with the Enabling Good Lives principles, which work for disabled people and whānau or their choice of support people. Many disabled people, particularly those with cognitive disabilities, are subjected to discriminatory treatment when it comes to sexual and reproductive rights. The Green Party believes that disabled people are entitled to the protection of our bodily integrity as much as anyone else, and should not be subjected, without our free and informed consent, to treatment or invasive processes that we would not be otherwise subject to if it was not for our impairment.

Actions
5.20. Require Te Whatu Ora to implement a disability 'Plan of Action' in accordance with Article 25 'Health' of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Te Whatu Ora should work with disabled people and disabled people’s organisations and the Ministry for Disabled People to develop, implement and report to the Plan of Action.

5.21. Remove all barriers for disabled people to access health services – including for medical needs unrelated to our disabilities – including ensuring that our health system recognises and acts on ableism and that people working in the health system have the knowledge and skills required to work with disabled people.

5.22. Eliminate the use of seclusion, including in secure health and disability facilities.

5.23. Ensure that public responses to health emergencies inclusively support disabled people and uphold their rights.

5.24. Ensure the safety of those sensitive to, and/or at high risk of infection from, airborne contaminants and pathogens in public spaces.

5.25. Respect, protect and provide for the sexual and reproductive rights and self-determination of disabled people, including the prevention of forced sterilisation and discrimination.

5.26. Ensure that any antenatal screening programme is not biased towards termination of pregnancies when an impairment is diagnosed in the foetus.

5.27. Ensure that any antenatal screening allows for the preparation of the birth, and life, of disabled children, including informing prospective parents about the likely and/or potential experience of people with similar conditions, without presuming that such a condition is a tragedy, and about available or potential supports for disabled people and their families.

E. Education

Issues

Obtaining a quality education is essential for achieving a non-disabling society and schools remain an area of real concern. At the moment, parents constantly have to advocate so school principals and trustees understand their obligations and work in positive, non-discriminatory ways. With individual funding capped, children deemed to have moderate learning support needs often miss out and must rely on the goodwill of schools to meet their needs.

Actions

5.28. Legislate an enforceable right of all learners to a quality and inclusive education at early childhood centres, schools and tertiary institutions, and ensure education reform is co-designed with disabled people.

5.29. Ensure that teachers and all school staff have the training and resourcing so that they understand reasonable accommodation and learners have their specific needs met.

5.30. Ensure accessible tertiary education, including:

5.30.1. Be committed to international conventions protecting the rights of students with disabilities and fulfill all obligations required by the Human Rights Act 1993 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
5.30.2. Ensure disabled students are provided with equitable opportunities to achieve their potential and participate in all aspects of tertiary education life, including by upholding and monitoring the implementation of the Kia Ōrite Code of Practice;

5.30.3. Provide targeted funding for tertiary institutions to create an inclusive environment for disabled students by supporting disability and learning support services and ensuring staff are trained to meet students’ needs;

5.30.4. Ensure graduates with disabilities receive support and assistance to move from tertiary education into employment; and

5.30.5. Ensure that statistics are collected on the number, needs and performance of tertiary students with disabilities and that these inform planning and resource allocation.

F. Work

Issues

Unconscious bias and lack of employer awareness about disability contribute to disabled people facing extra obstacles in trying to find suitable work. The under-utilisation rate for disabled people remains higher than for non-disabled people, indicating that many disabled people are being excluded from working as much as we'd like to. Lack of flexibility in job requirements or low benefit abatement thresholds present additional barriers.

Actions

5.31. Develop a comprehensive, rights-based national disability employment strategy.

5.32. Promote initiatives to ensure that employers understand their obligations regarding the provision of reasonable accommodations for current and prospective employees.

5.33. Ensure skills development and working conditions meet the needs of people with disabilities, including through improving accessibility standards.

5.34. Advocate for the replacement of segregated sheltered workshops with employment opportunities that promote inclusion and enable all people to contribute their skills to their communities.

5.35. Ensure that disabled people who are in paid work have the same employment rights as all other workers, including by removing the minimum wage exemption.

5.36. Promote and progress pay equity for disabled people, and require pay transparency and pay-parity management in all sectors.

5.37. Support employers to create fully accessible workplaces, including accessible procurement policies, to remove barriers to the participation of disabled people in the workforce, and to participate in schemes designed to support disabled people into work, such as Workbridge.

5.38. Utilise other mechanisms to proactively support people with disabilities to transition into paid work, including:

5.38.1. Ensuring Work and Income services, sites and information are accessible;
5.38.2. Supporting campaigns that promote positive attitudes towards disability and reduce discrimination;

5.38.3. Enabling the Ministry of Social Development to broker work opportunities for marginalised groups who are able to work; and

5.38.4. Expanding the range of employment support services to disabled workers.

5.39. Ensure that research, science and technology structures and funding promote participation by people with disabilities and do not cause or exacerbate harm (see our Research, Science and Technology Policy).

G. Justice

Issues

It is important to recognise that there are specific dynamics of abuse that affect disabled people. Disabled people are not just victims of crime, but also often experience inadequate community and system support and so enter our justice system. Neurodivergent people, people with a learning disability and people with FASD are overrepresented in our prisons: 90 percent of inmates have limited literacy, and 91 percent of Māori in our prisons have had major head trauma over their lifetime. Ensuring our communities have everything they need is a key way to reduce crime.

Actions

5.40. Ensure disabled people, including children, are safe from violence and abuse, while providing appropriate pathways for disclosure, training to help identify and respond appropriately to signs of abuse, and accessible mainstream and specialist services.

5.41. Tailor responses to abuse to meet the needs of disabled people, including ensuring in-depth understanding amongst service providers, sufficient data to enable an appropriate response, and the availability of dedicated services.

5.42. Undertake a strategic review of the justice system to:

5.42.1. ensure that it is accessible and fit for purpose for disabled people to ensure equal access; and

5.42.2. remove systemic discrimination and barriers against disabled people.

5.43. Support disabled people who enter the justice system, including by providing reasonable accommodations, mental health services within the justice system, providing inclusive educational and rehabilitation opportunities in prisons, and coordinating continued care upon release from prison.

5.44. Provide access to Mātauranga Māori services and Rongoā Māori for all tangata whaikaha | whānau hauā in the justice system.

H. International Issues

Issues

Disabled people are often locked out of residency due to ableist health requirements, and Government-issued documentation processes are inaccessible.
Actions

5.45. Remove the requirement for people to be physically present in Aotearoa New Zealand to renew or replace government-issued documentation and ensure renewal processes are accessible, including to disabled people.

5.46. Ensure that accessible voting options are available to overseas disabled voters.

5.47. Reform laws and policies so disabled asylum seekers, refugees and migrants have equitable opportunities for immigration, including removing the discriminatory Acceptable Standard of Health criteria (}
5.48. see
5.49. our Immigration Policy

5.50. Support disabled immigrants and disabled people from a refugee background to participate in society to the fullest extent possible, for example by ensuring access to information, services, education and employment (see our Immigration Policy).

5.51. Prioritise ODA programmes that promote disability rights, such as those which support economic development, human rights and education (see our Global Affairs Policy).

I. Climate change

Issues

Climate change disproportionately impacts disabled people and increases the inequities our community faces. Climate action should be taken as an opportunity to improve access and equity for disabled people, and not cause further harm.

Actions

5.52. Ensure the meaningful inclusion of the views and expertise of disabled people and disabled-led organisations in the design, implementation and monitoring of climate mitigation and adaptation measures, and in responding to climate-fuelled extreme weather and emergencies. Develop mechanisms for this purpose including a disability and climate reference group.

5.53. Work with disabled people to ensure that all new climate policy, budget initiatives and legislation are assessed upfront, and modified accordingly, to remove negative impacts on disabled people and to include measures to promote their full participation and inclusion whenever relevant.

5.54. Work directly with disabled people on climate response measures at a local level, and provide access to information on local climate-related changes and proposals in accessible formats.

J. Civil Defence Emergency Management

Issues

Disabled people are all too often forgotten in civil defence emergencies, which are increasing in frequency due to climate change. Emergency management planning needs to consider how to best keep disabled people safe and ensure we can access the services and support we need.

Actions

5.55. Work with disabled people to develop regulations that are informed by Article 11 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ‘Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies’, which guarantees the right to protection and safety in situations of risk, including climate-fuelled extreme weather and emergencies, and ensures access to up-to-date information across a range of formats including NZSL, captioned broadcasts, and radio.
5.56. Ensure that emergency response services have the training and resourcing necessary to respond appropriately to disabled people in emergencies, including disasters and extreme weather events due to climate change.

K. Media accessibility

Issues
Broadcasting and digital media must be accessible to all. There are many communities within Aotearoa New Zealand who are unable to access media broadcasting content in an accessible format.

Actions
5.57. Encourage the development of guidelines for the accessibility of digital media websites and apps, in line with the Web Content accessibility Standards, and existing operating system-specific app accessibility guidance.
5.58. Enact legislation to require television (both broadcast and on-line) to provide media in an accessible format, including captioning, audio description and New Zealand Sign Language content.
5.59. Adopt a consistent evaluation process, including feedback from the disabled community, around captioning, audio description and NZSL content standards and quality of access.

L. Waste

Issues
Many disabled people are particularly reliant on single-use plastic items including straws, plastic-wrapped pre-chopped food, sanitary products and medical items and equipment wrapped in plastic. Transitions to reduce waste must take disabled people's needs into account to ensure we are treated with dignity and not seen as a problem when we point out that we have not yet found any alternative solution which meets our needs.

Actions
5.60. Prohibit, following public consultation – including with disabled people – on necessary exceptions, most single-use plastic products and non-recyclable and non-home-compostable packaging, while ensuring that disabled people's needs and dignity are not compromised by measures to prohibit or restrict plastics or other single-use materials.