

HEALTH: DISABILITY SERVICES

Building Better Public Services



Supporting the disabled

One in five New Zealanders lives with a disability, and this number is expected to grow in coming years.

National wants people with disabilities to get the support and freedom they need to lead fulfilling lives. We have put in place a number of initiatives to improve services for disabled people and their families.

Improving the lives of those living with disabilities

In just a few short years, we've given more people the choice about how to spend their support funding, and the freedom to live how they choose.

We've established a full-time Disability Rights Commissioner and funded the *Be. Accessible* campaign, which promotes positive attitudes towards people with disabilities.

Improving support for disabled New Zealanders is an important part of our work to build a better, sooner, more convenient health service for all New Zealanders.

“National will continue rolling out support programmes that help disabled people live independently and have a voice in our communities.”

Key points

More funding



Put \$100 million extra into disability services since 2008.

A brighter future for disabled people



We will continue rolling out support programmes that enable disabled people to live independently and have a voice in our communities.

Established the position of a full-time Disability Commissioner, within the Human Rights Commission, and strengthened the Disability Commission overall.

National has...

Boosted funding

- ✓ Put an extra \$100 million into disability services since 2008.
- ✓ Announced in Budget 2011 an extra \$130 million over four years.
 - \$8.5 million a year to provide more places in residential support services.
 - \$2.5 million for equipment and modification services.
 - \$2.8 million to help disabled people learn skills to assist independent living.
 - \$2.5 million for assessment, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Expanded support

- ✓ Provided \$4 million for the *Be. Accessible* campaign encouraging positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- ✓ Established a full-time Disability Commissioner.
- ✓ Launched an innovative programme that gives disabled people and their families more choice to live the life they want. Local Area Coordinators work alongside people with disabilities to help them use their individual budget to lead a better life.
- ✓ Gave more than 1000 people access to personal budgets (or individualised funding) so they can choose what's best for them.
- ✓ Invested more in equipment and modification services for disabled people, dramatically reducing waiting lists.

What we will do next...

1. Encourage independence for disabled people

- Continue investing in disability services.

National has put an extra \$100 million into disability services since 2008.

Our investment has provided more flexible services and reduced waiting lists for modifications and equipment. We will continue to invest in disability services including an additional \$117m to support increasing staff sleep-over rates to the minimum wage over the next three years.

This work was funded in Budget 2011 including risk reserves and by annual increased budget allocation.

- Continue to roll out the Local Area Coordinator programme to other regions if the pilot programme is successful and it benefits clients.

This new approach aims to give people with disabilities more control over which support they choose in order to lead the lives they want.

Right now, people with disabilities are often assessed and presented with a set package of personal and home support for a set number of hours – take it or leave it.

The Local Area Coordinator programme gives more flexibility to disabled people and their families, helping them lead the lives they want.

Local Area Coordinators support disabled people and their families to make choices in how best to meet their needs within the resources available to them.

This programme is based on similar models in Western Australia and Queensland. It will be funded within existing health budgets.

- Focus on supporting what disabled people can do - rather than focusing on what they can't.

National has worked hard to give disabled people more say, and improve attitudes towards them. We will continue our work in building positive attitudes through the *Be.Accessible* programme.

Further innovations in IT will also allow disabled people to better manage their health at home, e.g. through telecare. People in some remote parts of the country are already managing their health conditions at home. These services can be extended to disabled people and their families.

This work will be funded within existing health budgets.

- Roll out 'Choice in Community Living' in Auckland and Waikato.

This will give up to 150 people currently living in residential care the opportunity to live in the community with support.

This pilot will give people access to personal budgets which they can use to organise their own independent housing and living arrangements. It will be funded within existing health budgets.

- Develop user friendly, 'one-stop shop' needs assessment agencies with disability, health, welfare, and housing services working together.

Bringing these vital services together will mean better, more efficient services for disabled people. Rules and regulations across various government departments make it

hard for many disabled people. A smarter use of assessment services will free up administrative resources to improve choice for disabled people.

This work will be funded within existing health budgets.

- Give more disabled people access to personal budgets or 'individualised funding'.

More people have access to personal budgets, or individualised funding, under National, meaning they can choose how to spend their funding to best suit them. We will continue this policy beyond the record 1000 people who currently access this funding. We will also work with providers to support this expansion.

- Further encourage people with disabilities to be involved with policy decision making.

Labour would take New Zealand backwards

Labour:

- ✗ Means more bureaucracy, more committees, endless visions that never deliver, and fewer people getting operations.
- ✗ Gave fewer people a choice about how to spend their support funding.
- ✗ Refused to appoint a full-time Disability Commissioner, meaning a smaller voice for disabled people.

We can't afford another dose of Labour.