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Cabinet Paper: Disability Support Services review



Published: October 2024

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of a **Cabinet paper**.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the full document
- includes the main points of the information.



A **Cabinet paper** is a document:

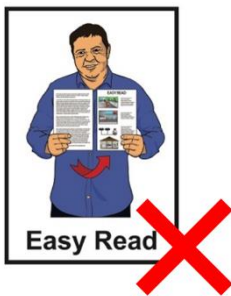
- from a **minister**
- asking **Cabinet** to agree to something.



A **minister** is an important person in the Government.



Cabinet is a group of ministers that meet to make decisions.



You can find the full Cabinet paper at:

<https://tinyurl.com/cabinet29apr>

The full Cabinet paper is not in Easy Read.



The Cabinet paper is from Louise Upston who is the Minister for Disability Issues.

In this Easy Read we will call her **the Minister**.



This Cabinet paper asks ministers to agree to set up a **review** of Disability Support Services.



A **review** is when you:

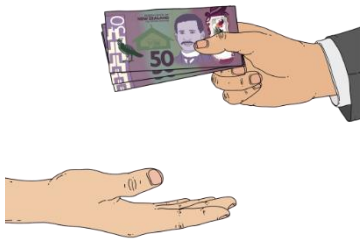
- check how things are going
- say if things should be done differently.



The review will give advice to the:

- Minister for Disability Issues
- Minister for Social Development and Employment.

What the Cabinet paper says



The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha should only spend the amount of money that the Government says it should.



The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha is the part of the Government that does work to do with disability.



In this Easy Read we will also call it MoDP.



In this Easy Read we will say DSS for Disability Support Services.



DSS is paid based on what people need.



Every year:

- more people get DSS
- the amount of money each person gets goes up.



This makes a problem.



The problem is that the same amount of money needs to be used to support more people every year.



The main reason the cost of DSS is going up is that it keeps costing more to pay:



- care / support workers
- for equipment like wheelchairs



- for modifications which are things like changes to homes



- for residential care which is when people live in a place where they get support



- for more people to get DSS.



DDS also costs more money because it works in a way that fits with:

- more choice in how disabled people can get support
- changes in how families are part of caring for disabled people
- decisions that have been made
 - in the health system
 - by ACC / Accident Compensation Corporation.



MoDP cannot fully control how much it needs to spend on DSS.



The people doing the review can talk to who they want so they can give their advice.



There needs to be advice to the:

- Minister for Disability Issues
- Minister for Social Development and Employment.



The advice needs to be about:

- what to do to fix the problems with paying for DSS
- how to make sure the people who need DSS can keep getting it.

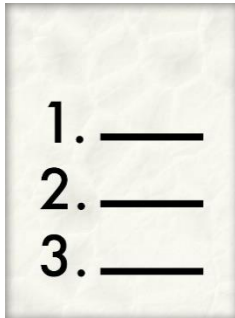


To do this the review will look at things like:

- who can get DSS
- what MoDP needs to do better to manage the problems
- what the law says.

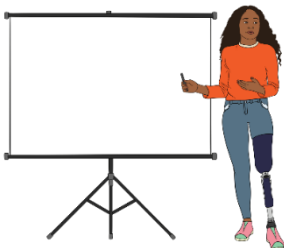


Recommendations



Recommendations are things someone thinks should happen.

In a Cabinet paper recommendations are things the Minister is asking Cabinet to agree to.



The Minister recommends that Cabinet **note** that MoDP has 2 roles:

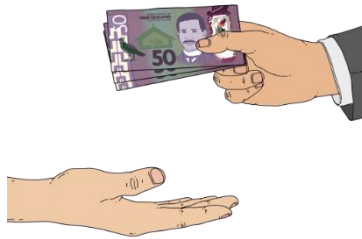
- leading advice
- changing DSS.



Note means an important thing the Minister wants Cabinet to think about / understand.



The Minister also recommends that Cabinet:



- note that MoDP cannot manage all the problems caused by issues paying for DSS



- agree that the review will give the Ministers advice on what should be done.

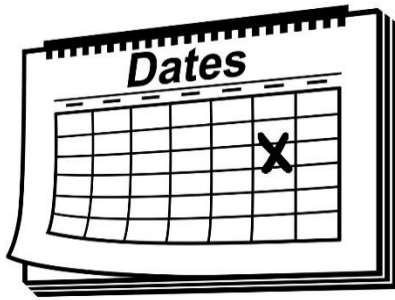
There should be advice on what should happen now to manage it getting harder to pay for DSS.



This advice should be given 6 weeks after the review starts.



There should also be advice on how to make sure DSS can keep going well in the future.

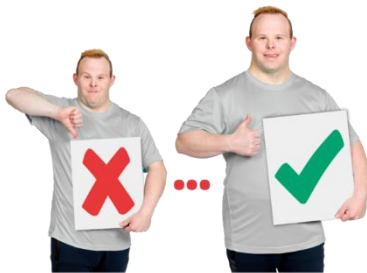


This advice should be given 14 weeks after the review starts.



The Minister also recommends that Cabinet agree that the **Public Service Commission** will host a group of people called officials from:

- the Public Service Commission
- Treasury which is the part of government to do with money
- Ministry of Social Development.



The **Public Service Commission** works on making different parts of the government work better.



The officials will work to support the independent review.

The Minister also recommends that Cabinet agree the Minister for Disability Issues and the Minister for Social Development can:



- choose 3 people with the right experience to work on the **review panel**
- decide what the people on the review panel should be paid
- set up the group of officials who will assist the independent review
- make small changes to what the reviewers are asked to do without needing to ask Cabinet first
- do anything else they think is needed for the review to work well.

The **review panel** means the people doing the review.



The Minister also recommends that Cabinet agree to the **Terms of Reference** for the review.



Terms of Reference are like the rules the review will follow.

The Minister also recommends that Cabinet:



- tell MoDP to pay for the review
- note the Ministers will ask Cabinet:



- before making big changes to what the review panel are asked to do
- if the review panel need a lot more time.



The Minister also recommends that Cabinet tell these organisations to pay for the officials who will assist the review:



- the Public Service Commission
- Treasury
- the Ministry of Social Development.

The Minister also recommends that Cabinet tell:

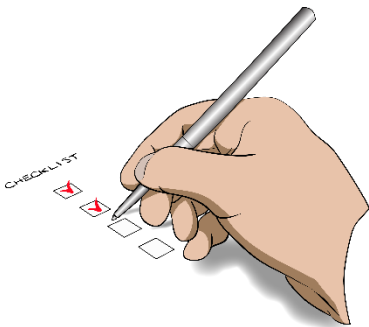


- MoDP to support the work the reviewers do
- organisations that work with MoDP to support the work the reviewers do.



The Minister also recommends that Cabinet ask the Minister for Disability Issues and the Minister for Social Development to:

- come back to talk to Cabinet
- tell Cabinet how the review is going
- give advice to Cabinet on what to do next.



This information has been written by
Ministry of Disabled People –
Whaikaha.

Make it Easy 
Kia Māmā Mai

It has been translated into Easy Read
by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai
service of People First New Zealand
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

People First NZ 
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