

NORTH SHORE

disability strategy



Creating a city that values people of all abilities

foreword

The New Zealand Disability Strategy is founded on the vision of a fully inclusive society. North Shore City shares this vision. We will work together to make our city a place where people of all abilities are supported and included in all aspects of life.

We have been on a journey to understand the needs and aspirations of our disabled community. The North Shore's Disability Strategy was developed under the leadership of disabled people with the support of the wider community.



The strategy was developed collaboratively with representatives from agencies, key disability service providers and disabled people from the city. At the end of 2007 a North Shore Disability Strategy Steering Group was established. Together this team has led the consultation on this strategy, encouraging the input and feedback of the wider community.

I am pleased to present this as the guiding document to lead the way to make North Shore a fully inclusive community with no exceptions.



Andrew Williams, JP
Mayor, North Shore City

April 2009



vision

An inclusive city where people of all abilities are highly valued and contribute to the community. No exceptions.

Guiding Principles

1. Leadership by disabled people.

This means the strategy is developed by and lived through disabled people who live and work in North Shore city.

2. Barrier-free participation for all.

This means removing the barriers to participation in all aspects of everyday life.

3. A citywide, collaborative approach.

This means a central and local government and community groups working together to improve community outcomes for disabled people.

The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2001

Making a World of Difference; Whakanui Oranga is a long-term plan to change New Zealand from a disabling to an inclusive society.

People with disabilities are unable to participate fully in society and reach their full potential because of the barriers they face doing everyday things. We know, for example, that people with disabilities are less likely to have educational qualifications and are less likely to be employed than people without disabilities. They face communication and transport barriers, and are likely to have lower incomes and fewer financial resources than the general population.

Public attitudes to people with disabilities often take the form of ignorance and prejudice. The aim of the NZ Disability Strategy is to remove these barriers wherever they exist.

An inclusive society requires active citizenship, government capacity at the national and local level, improved disability support services, participation in all aspects of everyday life, and, services that address the diversity of need within the disabled community. See diagram at right from *Including a disability perspective: A toolkit for policy makers* (Office of Disability Issues) 2005:

1. Upholding Citizenship

Encourage and educate for a non-disabling society

Ensure rights for disabled people

Foster leadership by disabled people

2. Building government capacity

Foster an aware and responsive public service

Collect and use relevant information about disabled people and disability issues

Inclusive and non-disabling society

5. Addressing diversity of need

Promote participation of disabled Pacific people

Enable children and youth to lead full and active lives

Promote participation of disabled women in order to improve their quality of life

Value families, whanau and people providing ongoing support

Progress for people with intellectual disabilities

3. Improving disability support services

Create long-term support systems centred on the individual

4. Promoting participation by disabled people in all areas of life

Provide the best education for disabled people

Provide opportunities in employment and economic development

Support quality living in the community

Support lifestyle choices, recreation and culture

facts about disability

The 2006 Disability Survey identified that:

- 17% of New Zealanders have a disability.
- The majority of disabled people have more than one impairment.
- Two-thirds of disabled people have physical and sensory impairments.
- Disease or illness, and accidents or injuries were the most common causes of disability for adults.
- The most common type of accident or injury causing disability was one that occurred at work.
- Conditions or health problems that existed at birth, and disease or illness were the most common causes of disability for children.
- 5% of children (under 15 years) had special education needs, the most common disability type for children.
- Disability increases with age, from 10% of children aged under 15 to 45% of adults aged 65 years and over.
- 82% of people with disability were adults and 14% were children (under 15 years) living in households.
- 5% were adults living in residential facilities, consisting of 99.7% of the total residential care population.
- Maori have a higher disability rate than other ethnic groups in every age group. The higher proportion of young people in the Maori population meant that 63 % of Maori with disability were aged less than 45 years.
- 31% of children with disability and 23% of adults aged 15 to 44 years with disability were Maori.
- The total disability rate for Pacific peoples (11%) was lower than for Maori (17%) and European (18%).
- Diseases and illnesses were by far the most common causes of disability for Pacific adults.
- According to the World Health Organization, mental illness accounts for 15% of disease in the developed world, with depression set to become the second leading cause of disability in the world by 2020.
- The New Zealand Mental Health Survey, 2006 (Ministry of Health) which shows that about 47% of New Zealanders will experience a mental illness and/or an addiction at some time in their lives, with one in five people affected within one year.

focus groups

There were six focus groups with disabled people in June and July 2008. The groups consulted were older adults, young people, adults with physical and sensory impairment, adults with an intellectual disability, carers and people with mental health issues. A total of 52 people participated in these consultation sessions. In addition, there was a focus group with service providers in 2007 coordinated by North Shore Council of Social Services. The key issues identified by the focus groups were:

1. Community Participation

- equity of access, leadership and advocacy

2. Transport (Getting Around)

- accessible footpaths, public transport, affordability and equity of access, disability parking

3. Sport and Recreation

- physical access and affordability

4. Health Services

- affordability and equity of access, planning and policy, service quality

5. Housing

- choice, affordability and equity of access, information and advice, service quality

6. Community Spaces

- equity of access

7. Education

- service quality, equity of access, planning pathways and policy

8. Employment

- equal opportunities

goals and actions

1 Civic and community participation

- Public information is available in accessible formats
- Disabled people participate in decisions that effect their lives
- North Shore is a socially inclusive city

2 Getting around the city in a timely, convenient and affordable way

- Accessible and affordable public transport
- Design standards for disabled access
- Accessible footpaths and public spaces

3 All people participating in the cultural and recreation activities of their choice

- Equal access to leisure, sport and recreation facilities
- Quality experiences in leisure, culture and the arts

4 Equal access to health services

- Reduced inequalities of health outcomes
- Equal access to health services
- Disabled people participate in health service planning

5 Secure, accessible and affordable housing

- A choice of location and living situations
- Accessible and future-proof homes

6 Access to community spaces

- Public spaces are accessible
- Public buildings are accessible

7 A barrier-free education and transition

- A choice of quality education settings
- Clear pathways beyond education
- Inclusive learning environments

8 Equal employment opportunities

- Equal access to employment opportunities
- Accessible workplaces

implementation

Following extensive consultation with the disability sector and the wider community an action plan has been developed to provide direction towards achieving the goals of the strategy.

The Disability Strategy Steering Group will continue to include representatives from across the disabled community, disability service providers and statutory agencies. Following the completion and endorsement of the strategy their role will be to champion the strategy, provide support for initiatives that progress the achievement

of outcomes, and ensure there is an inclusive monitoring and review process. The DSSG will report annually on the action plan and facilitate discussion to ensure that we celebrate the milestones that are reached, identify any barriers that need to be addressed and revise the action plan to include any new goals.



The North Shore Disability Strategy Steering Group includes the following representatives:

Sonia Thursby, PHAB Association Inc (Chair)
Jade Farrar, PHAB Association Inc
Alan Blackburn, Yes Ability Achievement Centre
Cameron Calkoen, Yes Ability Achievement Centre
Justine Hunter, Waitemata District Health Board
Natalie Brunzel, CCS Disability Action
Tania Natana, Harbour Sport
Jo O'Callaghan, The Halberg Trust
Pam Baillie, North Shore City Council
Neil Miller, North Shore City Council
Liz Ennor, North Shore City Council
Marguerite Vanderkolk, IHC
Marilyn Glover, Past Chair Disability Advisory Group
Brian Yee, Past Chair Disability Steering Group

With advice from a range of subject experts including:

Karl Gatoloi, Chairman, North Shore Pasefika Forum
Carol Ryan, Manager, Raeburn House
Gary Nelson, Farzana Haque, Katy Hetherington, Workbridge
Richard Mobbs YES-ability Centre
Jan Kennington, Principal & Pauline Penney, Physiotherapist, Wilson School
June McCrorie, Disabled Persons Assembly
Mary Jury



