**A new disability support system for New Zealand**

**April 2018 update**

The Government of New Zealand is making big changes to the disability support system.

The Government has been planning the changes to the disability support system together with:



* disabled people
* family / whānau



* disability support services.

Working together like this is called **co-design**.

This is an update to let you know what:



* has been happening



* is going to happen next.

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This update is from Sacha O’Dea from the Ministry of Health.

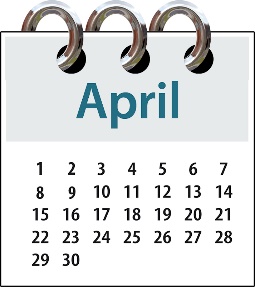


Sacha is working with the disability community on this work.

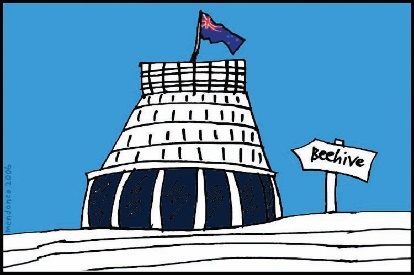
**Important new information**



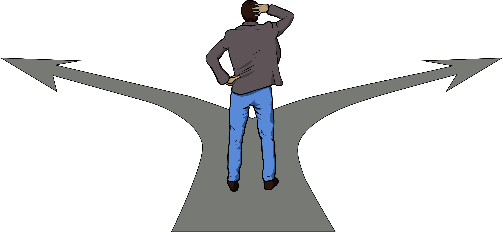
We have some news about the plans for the new disability support system.



In April a lot of big things happened for this work:

* ****we gave our plans for the new system to **Cabinet**

**Cabinet** is a group of senior Government Ministers.

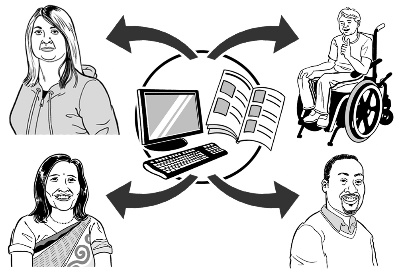


* Ministers of the Cabinet made some decisions about the plan



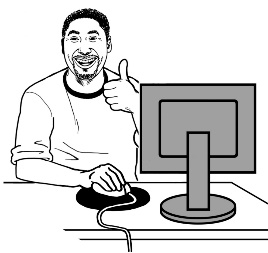
* we shared an Easy Read summary of the paper we gave to Cabinet

****A summary is a short document that tells you the main things that are in a bigger document.

We also:

* put out an Easy Read press release about the new system



A press release is a way to get an important message to a lot of people.   
  
  
A press release is sent to people and organisations that will be interested in the story.



* put out a list of answers to questions people ask a lot called:

**Frequently asked questions.**

You can find these documents on the Enabling Good Lives website:

**www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/system-transformation/**



**Important:**

The new disability support system is going to start in MidCentral on **1 October 2018**.



The MidCentral region covers:

* Palmerston North
* Horowhenua district
* Manawatu district
* ōtaki district
* Tararua district.

**Important:**

If you live in MidCentral:

* your support will not change all of a sudden on the **1 October 2018**
* the support you get now will only change if:



* + you ask to change it
  + you get to the date when your support is normally looked at to see if it is working for you.

**Here is a little bit more information about what the new support system will look like:**



**1**

**2 teams**

When we start the new disability support system in MidCentral there will be 2 teams:

**2**

* 1 team will have the **Connectors / Tūhono** and other peoplewho will work face to face with:

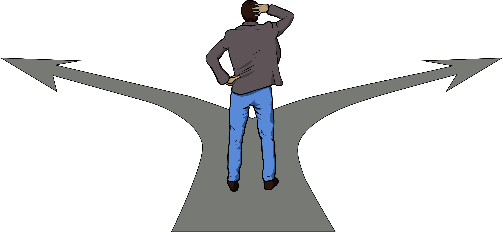
**1**

* + disabled people
  + whānau / families

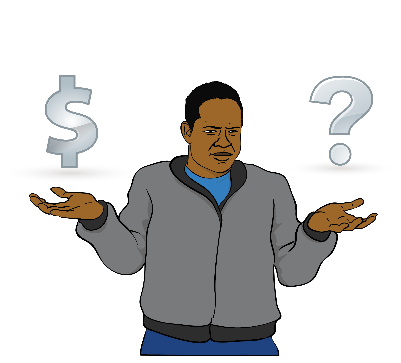


**2**

* the other team will have all the people who support those frontline workers.



Why do we have these workers in 2 teams?

****We have 2 teams as we have heard many people say it is important the **Connectors / Tūhono** are not the people who make choices about the funding people get.



**Funding** means the money the Government gives for disabled people to be able to get the support and the things they need for their disability.



**Important:**

****Even though the new disability support system will have **Connectors / Tūhono** – you do not have to have 1 if you do not want 1.

**The choice is up to you.**

**What are we working on now?**



**Virtual Testing groups**

We are working on making a tool to decide how much funding people will be able to get.



We know many people want to:

* see what these plans are

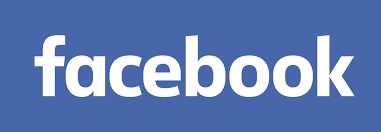


* have a say on how funding choices are going to be made.



We are doing **virtual testing** on this work now.

People on **virtual testing groups** use **online tools** to see if the new disability support system will work well.

**Online tools** are things likeemail and Facebook.

If you want to take part in the **virtual testing** **group** you can still email us on:

**STfeedback@moh.govt.nz**

**What are we working on now?**



**We are collecting information about what things are like in the disability support system we have now.**



We are looking at what things are like now for:

* disabled people
* whānau / families
* disability service providers



* staff who work for disability service providers.



We are doing this so we can see if things are getting better for people in the new disability support system.

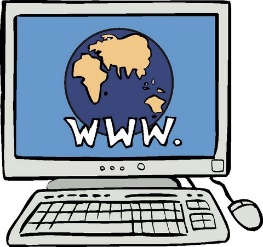
**What next?**

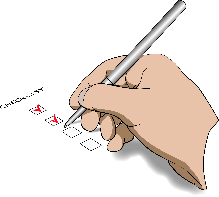


We know that it is really important to make sure people have good information about what the changes may mean for them.

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1 way we are going to give people good information is by doing some **live streaming sessions** with me online.

**Live streaming** means:

* playing a video on the internet at a set time **– for example 6 o’clock at night**
* people sending in the questions they have
* ****the person in the video giving answers to all the questions people are sending in

**Live streaming** is a bit like getting to talk with someone on the internet.

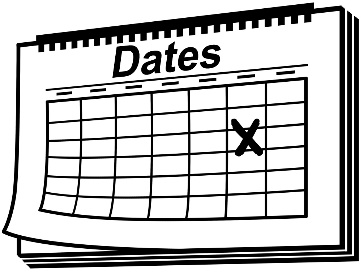
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Anyone can watch the **live streaming sessions.**



The sessions will be about different topics, like:

* what disabled people want to know
* what whānau / families want to know
* what disability service providers want to know.

We will give people lots of warning about when these sessions are going to happen.

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I also have a message for everyone who has worked so hard to get the plans for the new system ready to roll out in MidCentral.



I want to say:

* thank you
* congratulations.

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Your hard work has helped us to make this all happen.



**This information has been translated into Easy Read**

**by People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi**

