



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Accelerating Accessibility in New Zealand

Portfolio                      Disability Issues

On 29 September 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

#### Background

- 1        **noted** that the current framework for improving accessibility has not provided the credible policy, system design, and service delivery needed to achieve an accessible society;
  - 2        **noted** that in June 2020, SWC:
    - 2.1      noted the intended policy approach to accelerating accessibility is a new legislative framework;
    - 2.2      agreed that any new framework should set accessibility as a high-level concept (rather than a detailed, prescriptive definition) through the prevention and removal of barriers;
    - 2.3      agreed that officials progress further work on detailed aspects of a legislative framework;
    - 2.4      invited the Minister for Disability Issues to report back with a complete policy proposal to accelerate accessibility;
- [SWC-20-MIN-0074];

#### Accessibility Framework

- 3        **noted** that an innovative and effective approach for disabled people to independently access the public spaces, built environments, goods, products, education, health and services and fully participate in society is needed;
- 4        **noted** that a new accessibility framework is needed that takes a progressive approach to improving participation and ensures:
  - 4.1      strong leadership and accountability for identifying, preventing, and removing participation barriers;
  - 4.2      clear objectives and consistent methodologies to identifying, preventing, and removing participation barriers;

- 4.3 current regulations, standards, and enforcement regimes are fit for purpose and new regulatory systems are developed where necessary for improving accessibility for disabled people;
- 4.4 that the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are upheld and disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori, disabled rangatahi and tamariki, and their family and whānau are visible and able to participate at all levels;
- 5 **noted** that work to develop a new legislative framework has been done in partnership with the Access Alliance, a collective of 12 disability sector groups, Disabled People's Organisations, disability services providers, disability community organisations and disability advocates;
- 6 **noted** that the accessibility framework will reflect a partnership with disabled people, recognising disabled people as leaders, as experts on accessibility from a lived experience perspective, and as advisors to hold the system to account;
- 7 **agreed** that accessibility legislation will need to include:
- 7.1 purpose and principles for the accessibility framework;
- 7.2 role, purpose, and functions of the Board, including membership appointment processes;
- 7.3 role and powers of the Minister for Disability Issues, including supporting and providing oversight of the Board tabling;
- 7.4 role and powers of the chief executive, including raising the profile of accessibility across the public service and improving the quality of accessibility related data;
- 7.5 methodologies for addressing accessibility barriers;
- 7.6 monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements, including possible information sharing provisions;
- 7.7 expectations for engaging with and listening to disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori as groups and individuals;
- 7.8 a requirement for periodic reviews of legislation to ensure we are making the desired progress towards an accessible New Zealand;
- 8 **agreed** to introduce strong, clear leadership for accessibility by:
- 8.1 establishing a new accessibility governance board (name to be confirmed);
- 8.2 supporting a stronger government commitment to accessibility;
- 8.3 ensuring a public sector chief executive is responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing accessibility measures across the public service;

**Next steps**

9 s9(2)(f)(iv)

9.1 s9(2)(f)(iv)

9.2

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10 s9(2)(f)(iv)

11 **invited** the Minister for Disability Issues to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions in paragraphs 7 and 8 above;

12 **authorised** the Minister for Disability Issues to approve technical elements of the framework within the policy parameters during the development of the Accessibility for New Zealand Bill;

13 s9(2)(f)(iv)

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

- Hon Kelvin Davis
- Hon Dr Megan Woods
- Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
- Hon Andrew Little
- Hon Poto Williams
- Hon Kris Faafoi
- Hon Peeni Henare
- Hon Willie Jackson
- Hon Jan Tinetti
- Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
- Hon Meka Whaitiri
- Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Office of the SWC Chair
- Officials Committee for SWC