



# Disability Management in New Zealand

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# Disability in New Zealand\*

- 660,000 people report a disability (17% of population)
- 95% lived in households
- 63% have medium to high support needs
- Child causes: 52% at birth, 26% disease or illness, 3% accident or injury, 31% 'other'
- Adult causes: 37% disease or illness, 29% accident or injury, 27% age-related, 10% at birth, 34% 'other'

\* 2006 Census. Note: people may have more than one cause.

# What's in place now

- Political involvement
  - Ministers with specific responsibility
  - Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues
- Legislation
  - NZ Equal Employment Opportunities Act
  - NZ Human Rights Act
  - United Nations Convention
- Strategies
  - **New Zealand Disability Strategy**
- Networks
  - Employers Disability Network
  - Disabled Persons Assembly



# NZ Disability Strategy (2001)

- Focal point for setting objectives and measuring progress
- Dedicated Government agency
  - Office for Disability Issues
- Themes include:
  - promoting citizenship
  - building government capacity
  - improving disability support services
  - promoting participation
  - addressing diversity of need



# Progress to date

- There is a long list of actions and achievements
- But many say it's too focused on 'improving understanding', is under-resourced and lacks cohesion. Most agree it's too slow.
- Issue seems to be a lack of direct motivation for individual agencies
- In 2009 a more focused approach, that targets the ability to undertake the basic activities of life:
  - learning, work, community and relationships



# About ACC

- Government run accident insurer
  - monopoly provider, no private involvement - at this stage
  - operational agency, not policy
- Covers personal injury caused by accident
  - anywhere, anytime, anyone
  - no fault system but also no right to sue
- Funded through premiums paid by:
  - motorists for accidents on the roads
  - employers for accidents at work
  - workers for accidents they have anywhere else
  - Government for non-workers

# ACC's focus on disability

- As an insurer, highly motivated to get people back to work or independence
  - within appropriate medical boundaries
- Seen our own rehabilitation performance improve dramatically
  - major focus on workplace rehabilitation
- Our services, support compare very favourably with the broader public health system
- Big focus on injury prevention