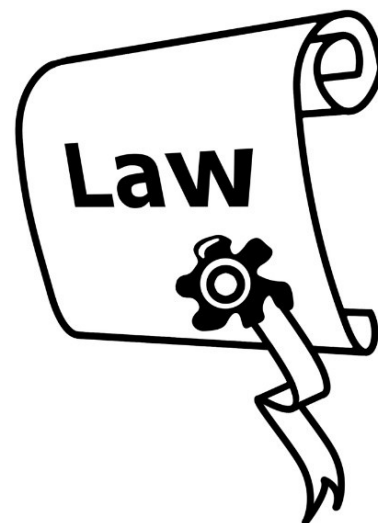




**The Access
Alliance**



The principles of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Act



September 2021

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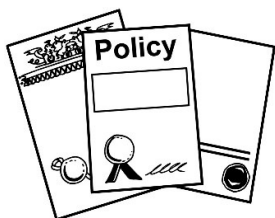
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Before you start



This is a long document.

While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

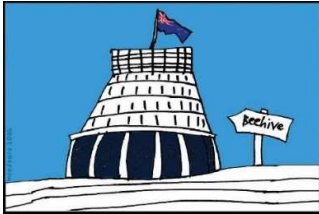
- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone help you to understand it.



The Accessibility Act

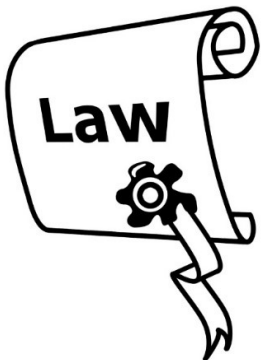


The Access Alliance is campaigning for the introduction of a new **Act**.

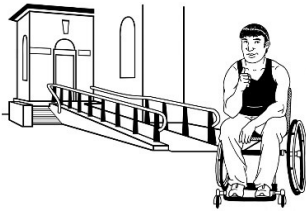


An **Act** is a law that is agreed by Parliament.

In this document we will call it the **new law**.



The Access Alliance wants the new law to be called the **Accessibility for New Zealanders Act**.

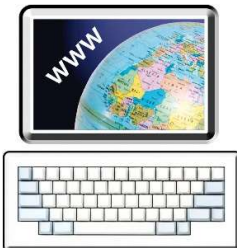


Accessibility means that disabled people can do the things they want to do.

Accessibility means everyone can so things like:

- get into buildings
- use public services like swimming pools
- use transport like buses
- have a job
- get information in a way that can be understood.

The Access Alliance



The **Access Alliance** is made up of:

- disabled people
- Disabled People's Organisations
- disability service providers
- community organisations
- disability advocates.

You can find out more about the Access Alliance on our **website**:

<https://www.accessalliance.org.nz/>

The principles of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Act



This document tells you about the **principles** that we think should be in the new law.



Principles means the ideas that help everyone to understand what the new law should be about.



There are 13 principles as part of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Act.

For each principle we will tell you:

- what the name of the idea is

and

- then explain it in Easy Read.



Principle 1: The new law applies to all



This means that the new law should protect the rights of all disabled people including people who:

- are blind
- are Deaf
- have a learning disability.



The new law will use the same meaning of disability as the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UNCRPD**.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



The new law should also say which organisations have to follow the rules.



These organisations should include:

- all government departments like the Ministry of Health
- crown corporations that are run by the government like ACC
- companies that are owned by the government like NZ Post
- all other organisations that the government has control over like universities.

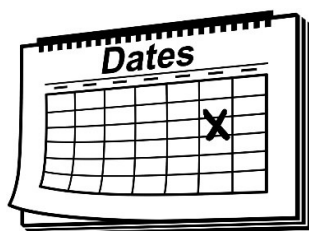


It should also include big businesses like banks.

Principle 2: The new law sets a timeline



We want the new law to make New Zealand accessible for disabled people as soon as possible.



It should have a plan that says when changes need to be made.

The new law should say:



- how long it will take to make things accessible
- what should be changed more quickly
- how often the government should check that things are more accessible.

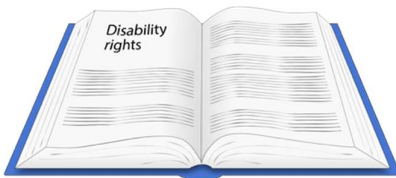


Principle 3: The new law gives more rights



This means that disabled people should:

- keep the same **rights** they have now
- get more **rights** under the new law.

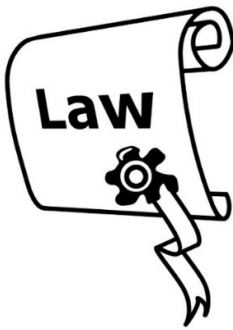


Rights are about people:

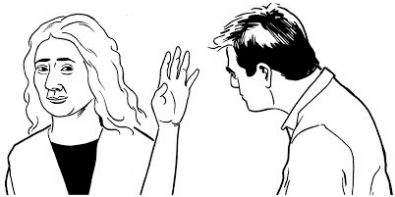
- making their own decisions
- having a good life
- being part of their community.



Disabled people should still be protected by other laws like the Human Rights Act.



The **Human Rights Act** is a law that protects you from being **discriminated** against because of your disability.



If you are treated unfairly because of your disability this is called **discrimination**.



Discrimination is breaking the law.

Principle 4: The new law gives accessibility in all the things people want to do



The new law should make everything more accessible by taking away **barriers**.



Barriers are things that stop disabled people from:

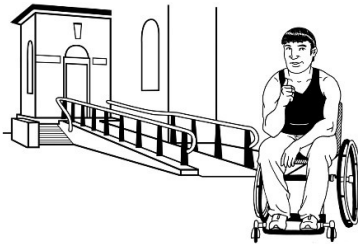
- being able to get into buildings
- having a job
- getting an education
- having fun
- understanding information
- having the right technology like mobile phones.





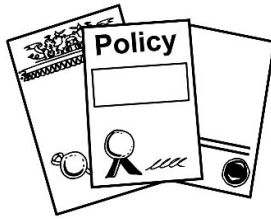
The new law should:

- take away barriers that are there now
- stop organisations from making new barriers.



The new law should have a set of rules so that everyone knows how to make things accessible.

Principle 5: The new law sets policy



The new law will make government **policy** about accessibility better.

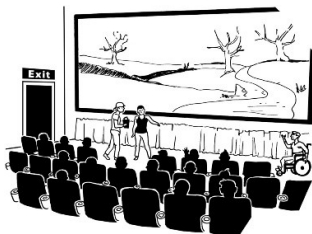


A **policy** is set of rules that is used as a guide for how to do things.



This should give disabled people more access to:

- things to buy
- services
- things to do like going to the cinema.



Principle 6: The new law tells organisations how to make things accessible



The new law should mean that organisations make things accessible.



Organisations should have a plan to make things accessible.

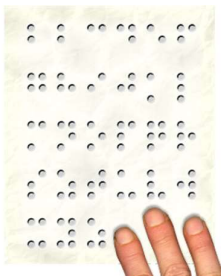


Organisations should follow **universal design**.

Universal design means making everything in a way that works well for everyone from the start.



Organisations should also make **reasonable accommodations**.



Reasonable accommodation

means making changes so disabled people have the same chances to:

- take part
- do well.

For example:

A blind person does not have the same chance to take part if they cannot read the information.

Putting information in braille is a reasonable accommodation.

Principle 7: The new law gives access to work



The new law should help more disabled people get jobs.



Employers should have a plan to make work more accessible.

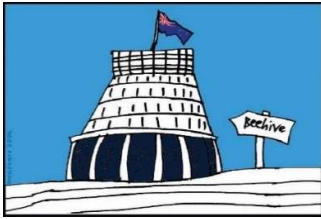


Education providers should be more accessible so that disabled people can do well at places like:

- preschool
- school
- university.



Principle 8: The new law tells the government how to support organisations



The new law should say how the government will support organisations to make things more accessible.



The kind of help the government can give organisations includes:

- training
- information
- money to pay for changes.





The government should choose someone to:

- check if things are getting more accessible
- report to the public to tell everyone if things are more accessible.



The person they choose to check should be **independent**.

Independent means someone who does not have to follow the ideas of the government.

Principle 9: The new law says what happens if organisations do not follow the rules



The new law should have a process so that people can complain if things are not accessible.



There will be clear information about:

- how disabled people can say if something is wrong
- what will be done to make things better
- what will happen if organisations do not follow the rules.



Principle 10: The new law has clear rules



The government should make rules that say how the law will happen.

Every 4 years a reviewer will check how the law is working by asking:



- disabled people
- disability organisations.

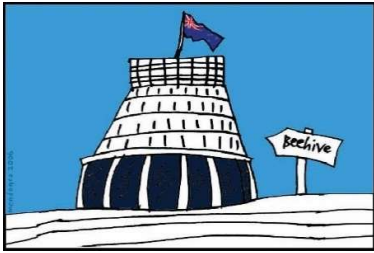


The review should listen to advice about how to make the law happen in different:



- services like healthcare
- businesses like shops.

Principle 11: The new law says government money is spent on accessibility

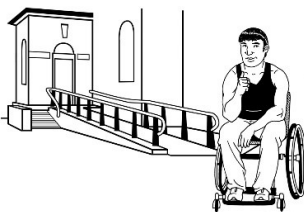


The new law should make sure that government money is only spent on things that are accessible.



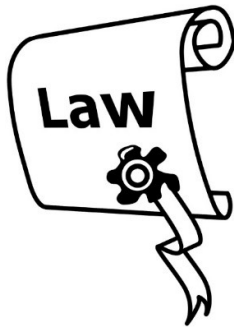
This includes things like:

- transport
- services
- new buildings.



The government should tell everyone how they are following the rules.

Principle 12: The new law can be used to change other laws that are not fair to disabled people



The new law should make the government check all the other laws that affect disabled people.



The government should plan to change any laws that make barriers for disabled people.

All new laws should be checked to make sure they are accessible.

Principle 13: The new law makes a difference



The new law should make real changes for disabled people.



It should make disabled people fully involved in community life.



The new law should have clear rules so everyone knows:

- what they have to do
- what will happen if they do not follow the rules.



**This information has been written by
The Access Alliance.**



**It has been translated into Easy
Read by the Make It Easy service of
People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā
Tāngata Tuatahi.**



**The ideas in this document are not
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