

# Policy 2017

## Disability Issues



### More choice, more control

Around one in four New Zealanders are thought to have some form of disability and National is committed to supporting them. We believe in giving every person with disabilities greater opportunities and more choice and control over their own lives.

Around \$4.5b is invested each year in helping achieve this.

We are always striving to do better so we are overhauling the way we provide support. We are putting in place the Enabling Good Lives programme which gives those living with disabilities more control over their lives and the way they interact with the Government. It also provides better support.

National will continue to focus on breaking down barriers to employment by helping employers become disability confident and helping people with disabilities to find work.

Together we are building a country where everyone has an equal opportunity to choose their paths, chase their goals and achieve their potential, and to live fulfilling lives.

**"We are committed to giving people with disabilities more choice and control over their lives."**

**- Disability Issues spokesperson Nicky Wagner**

### Policy highlights

- Budget 2017 invested an extra \$205.4m in improving disability support services, taking our total investment to \$4.5b a year
- \$27.1m will be invested in expanding the Enabling Good Lives programme which gives disabled people more choice and control over their lives
- Overhauling the New Zealand Disability Strategy to improve the way we support those living with disabilities
- Supporting disabled people and those with health conditions into employment
- Expanding cheap GP visits to 600,000 more New Zealanders– taking the total number of people receiving free or cheap GP visits to around 1.4 million
- Expanding access to the Community Services Card to provide more New Zealanders with cheaper health services
- Record investment in health to ensure world class services to those who need it
- Creating more job opportunities for New Zealanders with disabilities

# National is...

## Enabling good lives

- Through Enabling Good Lives, we're helping disabled people and their whanau to increase the choice and control they have in their lives
- We are working with the disability sector to transform the current system and give disabled people more flexibility over the funding they receive
- This means they will have choice over the services they receive, which will allow for tailored and more effective support
- We're also supporting people with disabilities into work through EmployAbility, the LEAD toolkit and the Disability Confident Campaign which work with employers and people with disabilities to improve employment opportunities

**\$4.5b – the amount the National-led Government invests in supporting disabled people each year**

# What we will do next...

- Continue to overhaul the way we support disabled New Zealanders, ensuring they have greater flexibility and choice and lead better, more independent lives
- Complete the Disability Action Plan and set challenging targets to ensure we get results and complement the work driven by the New Zealand Disability Strategy
- Expand the Disability Confident Campaign to include more employers and to create more job opportunities for disabled people
- Expand cheap GP visits to 600,000 more New Zealanders
- Expand access to the Community Services Card to an additional 350,000 people with low incomes and high housing costs