

# **Living with Disability in New Zealand**

A descriptive analysis of results from  
the 2001 Household Disability Survey  
and the 2001 Disability Survey of  
Residential Facilities

Prepared for Ministry of Health/Intersectoral Advisory Group, April 2004.

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# Foreword

*Living with Disability in New Zealand* is the most comprehensive report ever produced on the status of people with disability in New Zealand. It builds on the post-census disability surveys undertaken in 1996, providing extensive descriptive analysis from the 2001 post-census surveys.

Reliable information helps us to understand the needs of people with disability, and plan more effective and responsive policies and services. The report is intended to be a resource for a wide range of users including people with disability, policy analysts, funders, service providers and other interested parties, both inside and outside government.

Widely distributing this important information in a format that is accessible to as many people as possible is a key priority. To complement this report, a comprehensive set of data tables is being made available on-line on the Ministry of Health's website, [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz). A shortened summary of the report will be available by the end of the year in hard copy and alternative formats, including Braille, audio and plain English versions.

One of the objectives of the New Zealand Disability Strategy is to:

‘collect and use relevant information about disabled people and disability issues; and improve the quality of relevant disability information collected, analysed and used, including regular national surveys of activity limitation’.

It is my hope that *Living with Disability in New Zealand* promotes further investigation into the status of New Zealanders with disabilities so that we can work towards the Strategy's vision of an inclusive and non-disabling society.

Hon Ruth Dyson  
Minister for Disability Issues

# Acknowledgements

This report was developed by an intersectoral group lead by the Ministry of Health. The original group comprised Marianne Linton (Project Leader, Ministry of Health), Hilary Boyd (Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind), Anne Hawker (Accident Compensation Corporation), Robin Peace (Ministry of Social Development), Kate Lynch (Department of Labour), Louise Hoather (Housing NZ Corporation), Mary-Anne Stewart (Observer, Statistics New Zealand), Valerie Smith (Ministry of Health), Pamela Fletcher (Ministry of Health), Durga Rauniyar (Ministry of Health), Wendi Wicks (Disabled Persons Assembly), Joanna Curzon (Ministry of Education) and Helen Baxter (Accident Compensation Corporation). Additional members included Owen Hughes (Office for Disability Issues), Denise Brown (Statistics NZ), Juliet Elworthy (Ministry of Social Development) and Kylie Clode, Lester Mundell, Dr Martin Tobias, Dr Pat Tuohy, Rebecca Purcell-Hewitt, Dr Rod Watts and Sue Merrilees (Ministry of Health).

All chapters were written by Caroline Maskill and Dr Ian Hodges except for Chapter 8, Pamela Burns and Chapter 9, Christopher Carroll. Further processing of data, all data analysis and preparation of the report's Appendix Tables, which are located on the Ministry of Health website, was also carried out by Caroline Maskill and Dr Ian Hodges.

The complete report was externally peer reviewed by Dr Shanthi Ameratunga (University of Auckland), Dr Berni Kelly (Donald Beasley Institute) and Aron Spector (Social Development Canada). Acknowledgement is also made to the many other peer reviewers who commented on specific chapters. The external peer review process and publication of this report was co-ordinated by Marianne Linton and Kate Hirst (Ministry of Health).

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Comments on this report should be sent to:

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Introduction

Scope of the disability surveys and this report

Relevance to the New Zealand Disability Strategy

Future policy and services

Monitoring change

Future disability research

Future disability surveys

Addressing information gaps

Defining disability

Comparing sub-groups

Māori and Pacific perspectives

Perspectives of people with disability

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## Glossary

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