



## **Disability Support Services**

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### **Community-based Disability Therapy Services Strategy Scope**

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24 November 2016

## **Purpose of strategy development**

The purpose of the Community-Based Disability Therapy Services Strategy is to set a long term strategic vision for all Ministry funded community-based disability therapy services. More specifically, the strategy will:

- provide a framework to guide the commissioning of future community-based disability therapy services
- enable alignment with the strategic direction of the Ministry DSS and support work to transform the disability system
- ensure national consistency of community-based disability therapy services
- identify opportunities where value for money is best obtained
- identify principles which will underpin the implementation of the strategy
- ensure a cross-government perspective is maintained
- inform the decision making process of the DSS funding board regarding the commissioning of community-based disability therapy services.

## Background

The Ministry of Health has funded community-based disability therapy services for many years to support disabled people to attain and maintain their independence and self-determination. The majority of people who use these services have intellectual and physical disabilities.

Every year, the Ministry spends approximately \$7.6 million on community-based disability therapy services delivered by nine non-government organisations. This amount excludes the Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation (AT&R) services funded through the 20 District Health Boards (DHBs).

An internal stocktake in early 2016 of current Ministry funded community-based disability therapy services delivered by non-government organisations, had categorised these services as either community-based residential disability therapy services or community-based rehabilitation programmes.

Service Type		Characteristics
1.	Community-based residential disability therapy services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivered in a residential setting, either, intensive or slow stream.</li><li>• Average bed day numbers per annum is 68 beds.</li><li>• Annually, the Ministry spends just over \$6m on these services.</li></ul>
2.	Community-based rehabilitation programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivered to people by way of a community-based rehabilitation/habilitation programme model.</li><li>• Average client numbers per annum is 752 disabled people.</li><li>• Annual spend of just over \$1m on these programmes.</li></ul>

An internal stocktake and on-going feedback from disabled people and providers of community-based disability therapy services over the years have identified the following areas requiring improvement and development:

- inconsistencies in the definition of community-based disability therapy and lack of a clear understanding of its scope and what it is trying to achieve
- variations in service delivery models of community-based disability therapy
- outdated contract service specifications and a lack of outcome-based measures
- lack of national service coverage with most providers servicing the North Island

- considerable service provision costs to a small number of disabled people and no clearly defined outcomes being achieved for them.

To address the above issues, the DSS Community-based Disability Therapy Strategy will set a long term vision for community-based disability therapy services and determine the types of community-based disability therapy services the Ministry will need to purchase in the future. This strategy will be closely aligned with the strategic direction of the Ministry disability support services and support the work to transform the disability system.

Funding to implement the community-based disability therapy strategy will be sourced from existing baseline allocation.

## **Rationale**

The rationale for developing this service strategy is to ensure that as DSS moves to transform the disability system, detailed consideration is given to the future components of that system.

Development of the strategy is a requirement of the DSS Annual Business Plan 2016-17 and supports achievement of the NZ Health Strategy, NZ Disability Strategy, DSS Strategic Plan, Whāia Te Ao Mārama, Faiva Ora, the NZ Carers' Strategy, New Model initiatives and the Enabling Good Lives programme.

## **Management of the Strategy Development**

### **1. Vision**

The vision of the DSS Community-based Disability Therapy Strategy is to increase the independence and self-determination of disabled people.

### **2. Strategy Objectives**

1. Confirm a common definition and understanding of community-based disability therapy in the New Zealand context.
2. Develop an outcomes based framework specific to community-based disability therapy services.
3. Ensure community-based disability therapy service delivery models are fit for purpose.
4. Identify a sustainable model of community-based disability therapy which provides best value for money.

### **3. In Scope:**

- current community-based residential rehabilitation services
- current community-based rehabilitation (non-residential) services.

### **4. Out of scope:**

- Assessment Treatment and Rehabilitation services provided by the District Health Boards
- Intellectual Disability Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation (IDCCR) services
- disabled people funded by Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)
- other Ministry funded disability support services.

### **5. Key external stakeholders**

- disabled people using Ministry funded community-based disability therapy services and their families
- providers of Ministry funded community-based disability therapy services
- disabled persons' organisations
- New Zealand Disability Support Network – peak body of providers of community-based disability therapy services
- Disabled Persons' Organisations
- Ministry of Health, Accident Compensation Corporation, District Health Boards.

### **6. Key internal stakeholders**

- Policy team
- DSS Quality Team
- Procurement team

### **7. Potential for collaboration**

As part of the strategy design process, Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and other funders of community-based disability therapy services will be engaged for feedback and input.

### **8. Strategy development sponsor, leader and team**

- Strategy development sponsor – Martin Cole, Manager Community Living Team
- Strategy project management - Barbara Crawford, Manager Strategy and Contracts Team

- Strategy development Leader – Sonya Hintz, Development Manager
- Strategy development team members – Sonya Hintz, Riaz Azam, Feala Afoa

## 9. Strategy development governance

The DSS Group Manager and Senior Leadership Team will adopt governance responsibility for the development of the DSS Community-based Disability therapy Strategy.

## 10. Approximate completion dates

Key Milestones	Completion Date
Strategy Development Project Plan completed	December 2017
Stakeholder workshop hosted	February 2017
Draft Strategy out for sector consultation	April 2017
Final Strategy presented to SLT	May 2017