

**Media Release – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Muscular Dystrophy Association of NZ Inc.**

**Announcing the Disability Action Plan 2019-2023**

Yesterday saw the Minister of Disability Issues, Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, launch the Disability Action Plan 2019-2023.

The plan was co-developed between government agencies and the Disabled Persons' Organisation Coalition, of which the Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand is one of seven member organisations.

We are excited to see the Coalition's work with Government result in the new Disability Action Plan. It is now ready to share with the world.

This is a plan for all New Zealanders - He waka eke noa (We are all in this together). The Plan will ensure every government agency assesses what needs to be done to close the gap between the outcomes for disabled people and everyone else.

The Disability Action Plan sets out the two main things that will make a difference in the lives of all disabled New Zealanders - The need to collect data and evidence that shows what work needs to be done, and a requirement to engage with disabled people to find the solutions that will lead to the necessary improvements.

<https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/R-Cabinet-paper-Disability-Action-Plan-2019-2023.pdf>

There are new actions being planned by agencies as part of this Disability Action Plan and there is room for further actions to be added. This plan is not a closed list of actions to be ticked off over the next four years; it is a framework for making Aotearoa-NZ better.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand is proud to have been part of the development of this important plan and to have the opportunity to work directly with government to ensure that our members get their rights as citizens upheld.

We wish to thank all those agencies who have committed to work with our representatives on implementing these actions over the next few years and particularly to Minister Sepuloni for her leadership in championing the release of this important milestone.