

# Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill

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New Zealand Council Of  
Christian Social Services

Contact Name:	Nikki Hurst Rachel Mackay
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Ko wai au   Who we are:	<p>The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill.</p> <p>NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.</p> <p>Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 230 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website <a href="http://www.nzccss.org.nz">www.nzccss.org.nz</a>.</p>

## Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

Overall, we support the focus being placed on ensuring that Aotearoa New Zealand is an inclusive and accessible country for all those who live here. We strongly support the establishment of Whaikaha and the attention this brings to the importance of the rights of disabled people. We tautoko the mahi being done to bring these important discussions to the fore, however we agree with the concerns of disabled people and advocates that this legislation does little to improve lives. Without enforcement methods, this legislation can only suggest change, not enforce it.

We strongly echo the voices of disabled people / disability advocates who have indicated that the best course of action is to withdraw the bill in its current form and enter robust consultation, co-design, and co-production with the disabled community in order to produce functional and meaningful legislation.