

# Firstport

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**Enable New Zealand**

**November, 2024**

As we welcome, (or yearn) for the warmer days ahead, we've been exploring our website to see what you're most interested in.

It's clear that many of you are keen on finding support for travel costs, so we've added some info which is perfect timing as we head into summer! We've popped in updates about the movement with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Disability Support Services. And with the International Day of People with Disabilities coming up, we'd love to hear about any events you have planned!

Be sure to check out more updates from our sector—there's plenty of news to read within.



## Find support for travel costs!

We found a whole lot of different avenues for financial assistance for health and disability-related travel costs. Whether it's forgetting to appointments or accessing services. You can explore options through ACC, Health New Zealand, and Work and Income, all of which offer services to assist with your travel costs.

If you know of a great way to travel we could add to our list, let us know and we'll be sure to share it with our wider community.

[Learn about travel costs support!](#)



As the new **Disability Support Services** establishes itself, you'll start to see the acronym 'DSS' popping up across the motu (country). We shared in August that the Government's Independent Review findings saw a number of changes ahead for our disability community.

This newly formed services 'Disability Support Services' or 'DSS' for short, is the new place where the 'operations' side of disability services will be managed in New Zealand.

[Explore DSS next steps!](#)



### **Get ready for the International Day of People with Disabilities!**

At Firstport, we're excited to help raise awareness about the incredible accessibility work our community are doing and promote IDPD across Aotearoa! If you're planning an event, awareness campaign, or any activity related to IDPD, we'd love to feature your initiatives on our events page, in our newsletter, and on our social media channels.

Every great idea starts with a seed, and by sharing your mahi with a broader audience, we can inspire our community to connect in new and meaningful ways.

Together, we can break down barriers, reach new people, and shine a spotlight on your amazing work on a national stage. [Email our team info@firstport.co.nz](mailto:info@firstport.co.nz)

**Submit an IDPD event**

**Dock Into your first port of news!**

[A celebration of disabled creativity in Wellington | The Post](#)

The Disabled Artists Theatre Festival (DAT Fest) returns for its third year from November 2 to 17 at Te Auaha in Wellington.

[Apple brings new hearing test and aid technology to NZ](#)

The company will launch a new clinical-grade hearing test users can take at home and transform its new AirPods Pro 2 into hearing aids for people with mild to moderate hearing loss.

[Wellington sports charity helps rev up wheelchair rugby in Nepal | The Post](#)

A Wellington-based disability sports charity is hoping to spark the revival of wheelchair rugby in Nepal after a magnitude 7.9 earthquake rocked the south Asian country almost a decade ago.

[Taxis, rideshares discriminate against blind people with guide dogs - advocate](#)

A blind person advocacy group says guide dog handlers are being frequently discriminated against by taxi drivers and ridesharing companies.



**We're all about making your journey top-notch, and we reckon your input is key!**

We're keen to hear your thoughts to help shape the future of our digital presence. Got ideas for sprucing up the layout, suggestions for fresh content, or any other pearls of wisdom? Chuck 'em our way! Together, we can create a website that truly serves your needs.

Email [info@firstport.co.nz](mailto:info@firstport.co.nz) or give our team a call at 0800 362253



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