disability connect.

helping families

Where will we live in the future?

Home needs for disabled people and their family

Easy Read research report

“Tā tātou kainga e noho ana ki hea ā te wā heke mai”

How to use this report

The Community Housing Collective wrote this report. When you see the word 'we', it means The Community Housing Collective.

We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

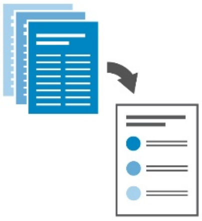
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 35.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report. This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other report on our website at **www.disabilityconnect.org.nz/housing**.

You can ask for help to read this report.

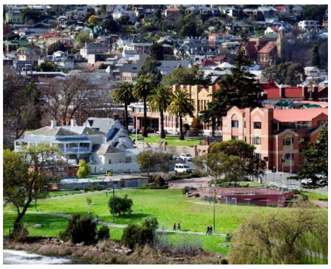
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this report?

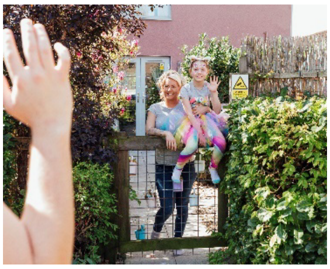
About us

The Community Housing Collective speak up about the housing needs of our **community**.

Your community is the place where you live.



It is not just your home. It is outside your home as well.



It includes the people who live in your area.

We speak up for:

- disabled people

- families with disabled family members

- parents of disabled children

- the **whānau** of disabled people.

Whānau means the people who are connected as part of an extended family.

Whānau can be different family members who live in a home together.

Whānau can also be single parents with other family members who don't live in the same home.

Whānau can include people who are not Māori.

We are run by Disability Connect.

The groups that belong to the Community Housing Collective are:

- Auckland Disability Law
- Intellectually Handicapped Children (IHC)
- Cerebral Palsy Society
- ME Family Services
- Children’s Autism
- Otara Health Charitable Trust
- Disability Connect

- Te Manawa Respite Care
- Complex Care Group
- YES Youth Empowerment Services.

About this report

This report is about giving disabled people and their parents a voice.

We also want to give a voice to:

- family members

- carers

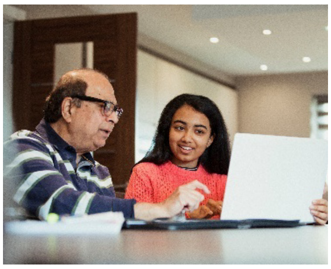
- whānau.

We have some important reasons for making this report.

It's important for disabled people and their parents to talk about their:

- home concerns

- care needs.



It's important for family members and whānau to talk about these things too.

We want to share information with:

- government groups

- the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

A **committee** is a group of people who have been put together to:

- do a project

- reach a goal.

Their job is to make sure disabled people get their **rights** in New Zealand.

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.

We need to tell the committee how the home needs of disabled people are not being met.

We want more people in the disability community to take part in new research.

A summary of our research

The information in this report is from:

- surveys

- interviews

- focus groups.

We collected information from:

- disabled people and their parents

- people with health problems that will last a long time

- family members

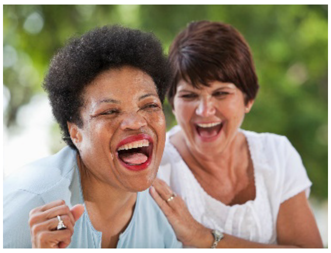
- whānau

- carers.

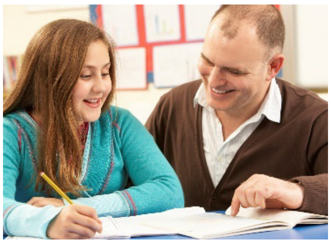
A lot of people who took part in our research, did it for a disabled person.

This includes:

- a family member



- a friend



- a parent on behalf of their child.

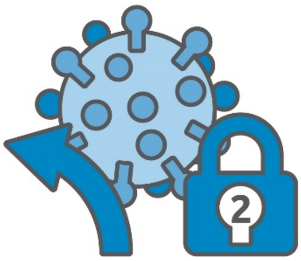
We did the research for this report in 2 stages.

Stage 1 was before New Zealand went into the first lockdown because of **coronavirus (COVID-19).**

COVID-19 is a virus that has affected many people around the world.

512 people took part in this survey.

Most of them were living in a home they rent.



Stage 2 was before the second lockdown in Auckland.

144 people took part in this survey.

What we found out

We found out that the main home concern disabled people have is they can't say how they feel.

We also found that parents felt their voice was not being heard.

We found out that disabled people want to make their own choices about their home with their family members.

We found out that disabled people feel upset and hurt that their:

- needs are not being met

- family members are not being heard.

We found out that disabled people would like their needs to be part of the government's:

- plans

- rules.

Stage 1

We found out that some people had little or no choice about where they live.

We found out that people were happy about where they lived but not happy about who they lived with.

We found out that most people live in a comfortable home.

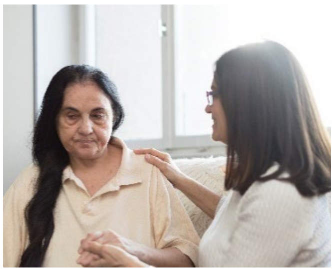
We found out that most people were happy about their home because it supported their:

- health
- wellbeing.

We found out that some people were not happy with their home because it:

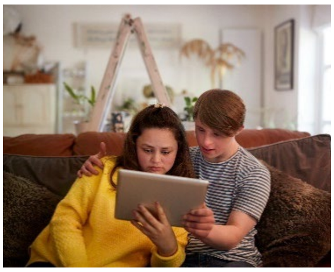
- was not comfortable
- did not make them feel good.

We found out that people who lived with, and got support from, family or whānau, were happier.



We found out that people who lived with, and got support from, people who were not whānau were less happy.

We found out that people who owned the home they live in were happier than other people.



We found out that people who lived in a rented home had half the average level of being happy.

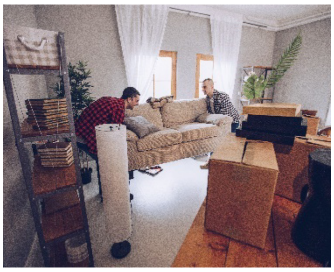
We found out that some people were worried about how long they could live in their home.

We found out that a lot of people said they had to change their home because of things they didn’t like.

We found out that some people were less likely to notice if something was wrong with their home than others.

Stage 2

We found out that, because of COVID-19, some people had to:



- move to a different home

- change how they were living.

This was bad for their:

- care
- support
- health.

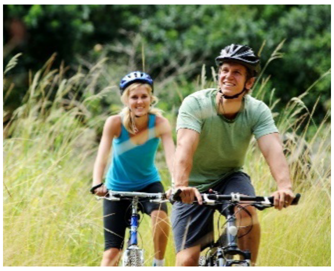
It made some people feel better.

It made some people feel worse.

It made some people feel:

- lonely
- bored.

We also learned that people had:



- more time to do activities they enjoy

- better health

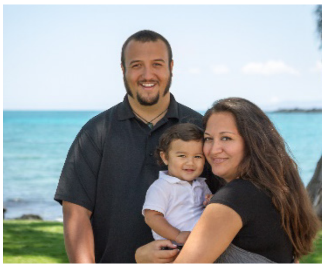
- better contact with their friends and family.

What we found from stage 1 and 2

We looked at stage 1 and stage 2 at the same time.

About the same number of people who took part were:

- **migrants –** people who were born in other countries but live in New Zealand now



- New Zealand **citizens**.

A citizen is someone who gets the rights and freedoms of the country where they live.

We found out that it made a big difference to how a person felt in their home when they lived:

- with a family or whānau

- in a home they own

- in a home owned by a family member or their whānau.

We found out that a low number of disabled people took part in this research compared to how many disabled people live in New Zealand.

Interviews and focus groups

14 people took part in interviews.

33 people took part in focus groups.

Most of the people took part for a disabled family member.

An almost equal number of people who took part were:

- migrants

- New Zealand citizens.

We asked people about the home they live in now.

We asked people about the challenges they faced finding a home.

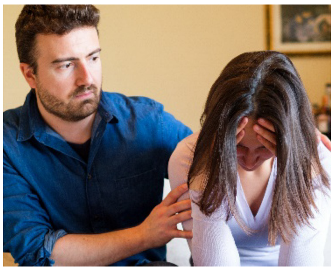
We also asked people about what challenges they might face in the future.

We also asked people:

- what their dream home would look like

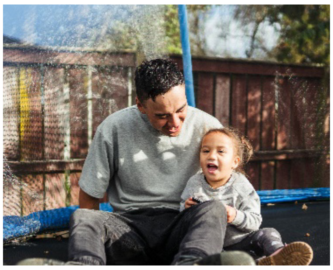
- how they coped during COVID-19 lockdowns.

What we found out



Parents and family members said they felt:

- tired
- like they would never get what they want
- like giving up.



Family members also said they worried about their children in the future.

Disabled people said they worried about not having:

- many options

- a home they know they can stay in for a long time.

Disabled people and whānau said there was not much:

- choice
- information available for them.

People told us they were made to feel grateful for anything they got even though their basic needs were not being met.

Basic needs can include being close to:

- public transport

- family members and whānau.

Another basic need is a home that is:

- warm
- dry
- easy to get into and out of
- easy to move around in
- secure
- looked after well.

Another basic need is a home that is right for the age of the disabled person.

People found it hard to work with government agencies who looked after their wellbeing.

People said there was not much planning for the future.

People also said there wasn’t a central place where they could get:

- information
- support.

What does this all mean?

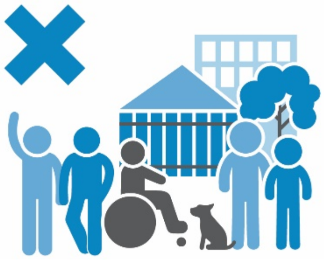
A home is a basic human right for a disabled person.

Disabled people should be able to make choices about:

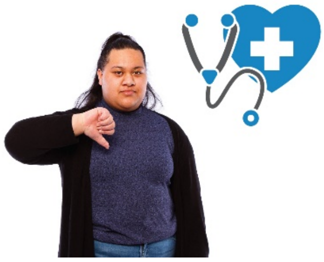
- where they live

- their personal care.

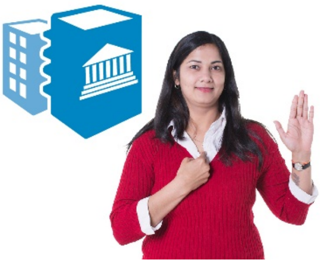
Housing for disabled people is not a:



- social problem



- health need.



A **government agency** is part of the government that looks after a service.

There must be 1 government agency that makes sure disabled people always have homes.

The Ministry of Social Development could look after homes for disabled people.

When making choices about support for disabled people, the government should think about:

- family members
- whānau.

What should happen now?

We have 5 ideas about what should happen now.

1. Government agencies must think about what disabled people and their families need.

2. Collect lots of information about homes for disabled people from a single government agency, like the Ministry of Social Development.

3. Support parents so they can give their disabled children a home.

4. Give disabled people and their whānau:

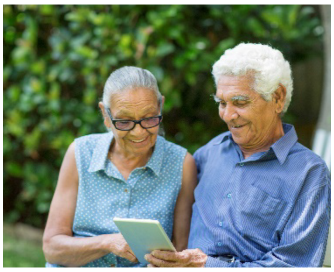
   - clear information that is easy to understand

   - ways to make their own choices about homes that work well.

5. The government must set a goal to use **universal design** for 100% of new public homes.

This will make sure that homes:

- are always available for disabled people



- meet the needs of New Zealand people who are getting older.

Universal Design means we think about what everybody needs when we plan or start new projects and services.

Thank you

We would like to say thank you to:

- Child Poverty Action Group

- Intellectually Handicapped Children (IHC).

They are 2 organisations who have sponsored this research report.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Citizen

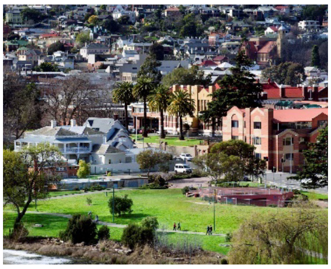
A citizen is someone who gets the rights and freedoms of the country where they live.

Committee

A committee is a group of people who have been put together to:

- do a project
- reach a goal.

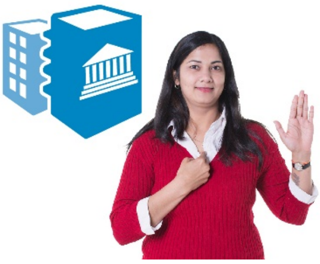
Community



Your community is the place where you live. It is not just your home. It is outside your home as well. It includes the people who live in your area.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a virus that has affected many people around the world.

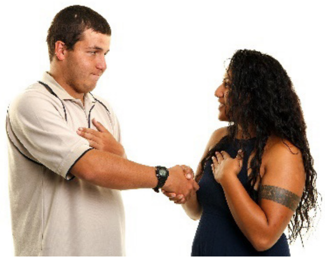


Government agency

A government agency is part of the government that looks after a service.

Migrant

Migrants are people who were born in other countries but live in New Zealand now



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.

Universal Design

Universal Design means we think about what everybody needs when we plan or start new projects and services.

Whānau

Whānau means the people who are connected as part of an extended family.

Contact us

(+64) 9 636 0351

admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

PO Box 13385
Onehunga 1643

Auckland, New Zealand

disabilityconnect.org.nz

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