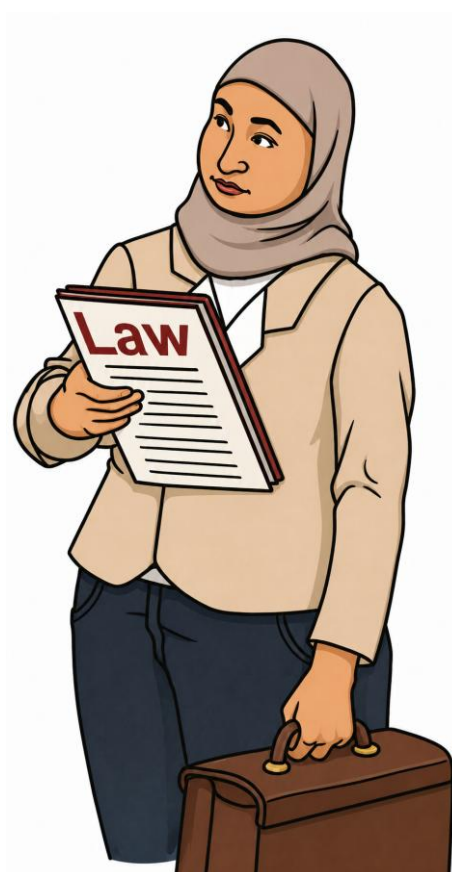


Whaimana
Support My Decisions



Whaimana – Support My Decisions:

Changes to New Zealand Laws to do with Decision-Making

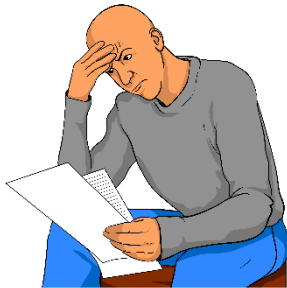


Published: June 2026

Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.

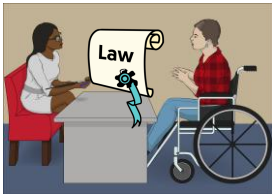


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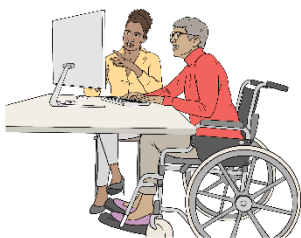


This Easy Read is about the website
**Whaimana – Support My
Decisions.**



Whaimana – Support My Decisions
is a website that shares things about
supported decision-making like:

- information
- **resources.**



Supported decision-making is a
way to:

- support people to make choices
about their own lives

with

- the support of the people they
choose.





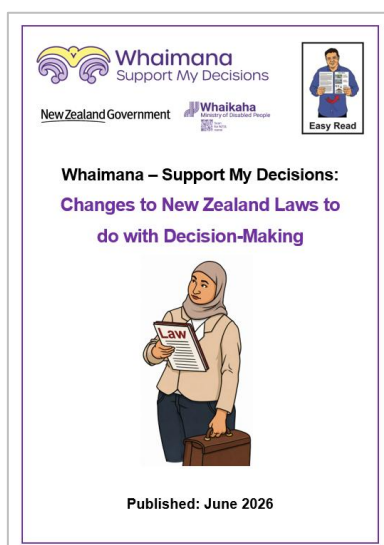
Here **resources** are things to assist people with supported decision-making like having information from different organisations.



Whaimana – Support My Decisions is called **Whaimana** for short in this Easy Read.

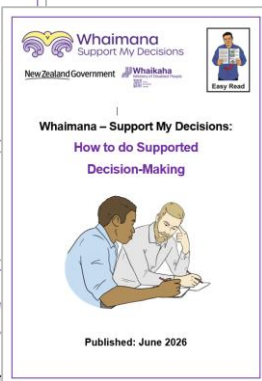
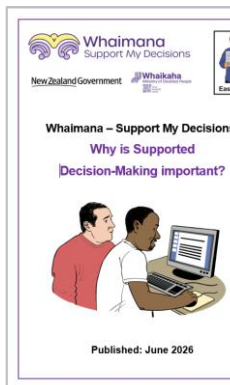
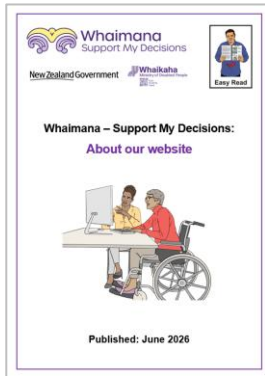


In this document the people who make decisions are called **decision-makers**.



This Easy Read is called:

Whaimana – Support My Decisions: Changes to New Zealand Laws to do with Decision-Making.



There are 5 other Easy Reads about what is on the Whaimana website:

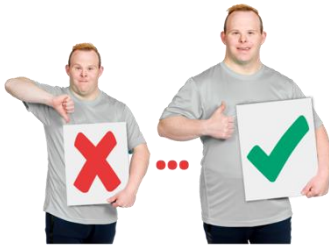
- About our Website
- What is Supported Decision-Making?
- Why is Supported Decision-Making Important?
- How to do Supported Decision-Making
- Supported Decision-Making Stories.



You can visit the Whaimana **website** at:

www.supportmydecisions.nz

The Whaimana website has been made by the **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha**.



The **Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha** works to make change for disabled people to make their lives better.



The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha makes things better for disabled people by working with:



- the Government
- the community
- businesses.

What is happening?



There may be changes made to the 2 main **laws** in New Zealand about:

- decision-making **capacity**

and

- decision-making when someone is getting mental-health care.



A **law** is a rule made by the Government that everyone must follow.



Here **capacity** means if someone can make decisions for themselves.



These 2 laws are called:

- the Protection of Personal and Property Rights **Act**
- the Mental Health Act.



An **act** is a **law**.



We tell you about these laws in the next parts of this Easy Read.

The Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act



The main law that talks about decision-making **capacity** in New Zealand is the **Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act**.



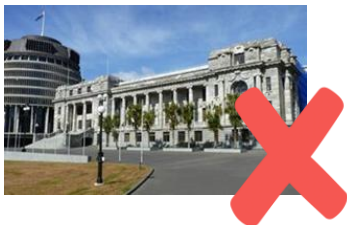
Here **capacity** means if someone can make decisions.



The **Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act** is used when someone does not have decision-making capacity.



The **Law Commission – Te Aka Matua o te Ture** reviewed the PPPR Act in February 2022.



The **Law Commission – Te Aka Matua o te Ture** does **research** to find out how to make better laws.

It makes **recommendations** to the Government.

The Government cannot tell it what to do.



Here **review** means looking at something to see:

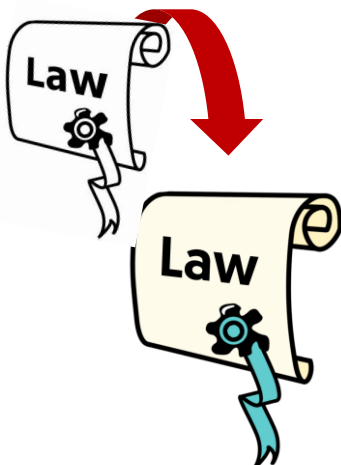
- how well it is working
- if changes should be made to make it better.



Research is when a lot of information about something is put together to learn about it.



Making **recommendations** means telling someone what they should do to make things better.



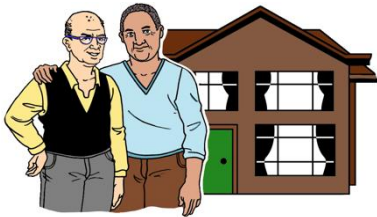
What law changes were recommended?

The Law Commission recommended the PPPR Act should be replaced with a new law.



The reason for a new law would be to:

- promote / let people know about:
 - equality / being treated the same way as everyone else
 - dignity / respect
 - autonomy / making your own decisions
- follow:
 - **human rights**
 - what the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** says.



Human rights are things that the law says every person should:

- have
- be able to do.

Rights are things like:

- having a safe place to live
- getting the healthcare you need.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UN Disability Convention**.

It can also be called the **UNCRPD**.



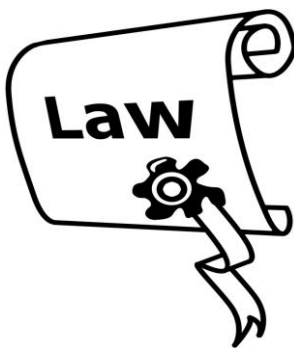
It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



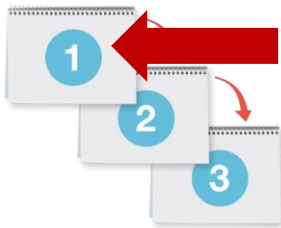
What does the review say about supported decision-making?



The Law Commission said supported decision-making should be an important part of a new law.



The Law Commission has made lots of recommendations on how a new law can do this.



These recommendations are the first step.



Changing the law can take a long time.



The Government is thinking about the recommendations before it decides if the law will be changed.

The Mental Health Act



The Mental Health Act is a law which says when people can:

- be **assessed** for the mental-health care they need

and



- get treated if they need mental-health care.



Here **assessed** means when someone like a doctor finds out what your mental-health care needs are.



The Government has written a new mental health law called the Mental Health Bill.



The Mental Health Bill is called **the Bill** in this Easy Read.



The Bill is now being looked at by **Parliament**.

Parliament is the part of the Government that makes laws.



This means the Bill may change before it becomes law.



What is the Mental Health Bill trying to do?

The Bill wants to make sure **compulsory** mental-health care is used in:

- ways that are fair
- ways that are safe
- the best way to do something for the person getting mental-health care.



Here **compulsory** is when you are told you have to do something.



The Bill will work to:

- protect human rights
- support the **recovery** of people in mental-health care
- support people to make their own decisions when they can
- use compulsory care only when it is needed
- make sure people are safe when they are getting mental-health care services.

Recovery means getting better when you have been unwell.



What does the Bill say about supported decision-making?

Some people in mental-health care have decisions made for them by other people.



The Bill will support more people to use supported decision-making to make decisions about their own lives.



It will also support people to take part in decisions about their mental health by:

- talking to them about:
 - care they would like
 - getting treatment in a way that respects what they need
- supporting them to say how they want to be cared for in the **future**.





The **future** is time that has not happened yet.



The Bill will also support people to take part in decisions about their mental health by:

- letting them choose a decision-supporter to assist them to say what their choices are



- letting them make a care plan with their decision-supporter



- giving them the chance to have an **independent:**

- support person

and

- **advocate.**





Here **independent** means your support person is someone who:

- supports you in the way you want / need
- is not going to listen to other people who might want you to make a different choice.

Advocate is someone who will speak up for you.



The Bill will also support people to take part in decisions about their mental health by:

- letting them review / look at:
 - decisions about compulsory care
 - **appeals** about compulsory care decisions
- giving them information about their rights in a way they:
 - can read like Easy Read
 - understand.



Here **appeal** means when someone has asked for a decision made by the court to be changed.



The new law is planned to start on 1 July 2027.



For more information about
supported decision-making visit our
website at:

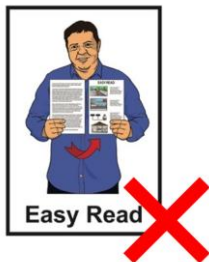
www.supportmydecisions.nz/205

More information



For more information about supported decision-making visit our **website** at:

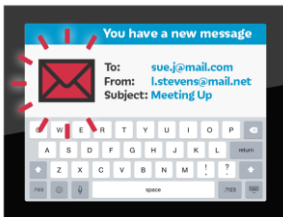
www.supportmydecisions.nz



This website is not in Easy Read.



You can also contact us if you have any questions about Whaimana by:



- **emailing** us at:

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz

- **calling** us at:

0800 942 452.





If you find it hard to use the phone
the **New Zealand Relay** service is for
people who are:

- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the
New Zealand Relay service at:

www.nzrelay.co.nz

This information has been written by the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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