



Whaimana
Support My Decisions

New Zealand Law Reforms

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Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

Transcriber's Note: There are two logos at the top of the page. The logo on the left is Whaikaha—Ministry of Disabled People. The logo on the right is Whaimana—Support My Decisions.

New Zealand Law Reforms

Proposed changes to New Zealand's main laws about decision-making capacity and mental health care place more emphasis on supported decision-making.

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 (PPPR Act). The Law Commission—Te Aka Matua o te Ture has reviewed the PPPR Act.

What law changes do the review recommend?

In February 2026, the Law Commission—Te Aka Matua O te Ture recommended that the PPPR Act should be replaced with a new law.

The purpose of a proposed new law would be to:

- Promote equality, dignity and autonomy
- Honour human rights and the UNCRPD.

What does the review say about supported decision-making?

The Law Commission has said that support for decision making should be a core focus of a new law. They have 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 now thinking about the Law Commission's recommendations before it decides whether to change the law.

Mental Health Act

The Mental Health Act is a law which says when people can be assessed and treated if they must have mental health care.

The Government has written a new mental health law which is called the Mental Health Bill. The Bill is now being looked at by Parliament, which means it may change before it becomes law.

What is the Mental Health Bill trying to do?

The Mental Health Bill wants to make sure compulsory mental health care is used in a fair, safe and least restrictive way.

The Bill aims to:

- protect people's rights
- support people's recovery
- help people make their own decisions when they can
- use compulsory care only when it is needed
- protect people's safety

What does the Mental Health Bill say about supported decision-making?

The Mental Health Bill moves away from making decisions for people, toward supported decision-making.

It aims to help people participate in decisions about their mental health by

- Encouraging them to say how they want to be cared for in the future.
- Talking to them about care and treatment options in a way that respects their needs.
- Letting them choose someone to help express their views.
- Involving them and their supporters in developing a care plan.
- Providing them with an independent support person and advocate.

- Allowing reviews and appeals about compulsory care decisions.
- Giving them clear accessible information about their rights.

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

For more information visit

<https://www.supportmydecisions.nz/why-is-sdm-important/nz-law-reforms> or

<https://www.supportmydecisions.nz/205>

End of New Zealand Law Reforms