



Whaimana
Support My Decisions

Safeguarding

Adapted in 2026 by Accessible Formats Service,
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.

Safeguarding

Supported decision-making is a key part of safeguarding rights, wellbeing, and safety.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding people means to:

- strengthen and protect their rights and well-being
- prevent harm, abuse, or neglect from happening
- support people who experience harm, abuse, or neglect.

Safeguarding is particularly important for disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori who are:

- not able to remove themselves from harm
- not having their human rights respected
- at risk or experiencing harm, abuse, or neglect.

What are some of the key ideas?

Everyone has a right to:

- make their own decisions
- citizenship and quality of life
- safety and well-being.

Safeguarding promotes, protects, and enhances these rights.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. There are layers of safeguards.

- Personal: build people's capability to make their own decisions, take risks, and have normal opportunities.
- Relationships: help people, families, and whānau strengthen their relationships, support networks, and community connections.
- Community: help create inclusive and welcoming communities.
- Services: protect and promote people's rights.
- System: use legislation, regulations, and policies.

For more information visit

<https://www.supportmydecisions.nz/why-is-sdm-important/safeguarding> or
www.supportmydecisions.nz/204

End of Safeguarding