# Safeguarding Framework MidCentral prototype

The Framework has three focus areas, B*eing Aware, Being Heard* and *Being Responsive.* They are designed to establish a common understanding and consistent approach to help promote, protect and enhance the rights of disabled people and protect people against abuse. The Framework's spectrum of safeguards will enable disabled people and their whānau to make informed choices, including taking risks and having opportunities like other people; and will support disabled people and their whānau to strengthen their personal relationships, expand their networks of support and increase their community connections. There are also formal safeguards, i.e. Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) Legislation, standards, regulations and quality assurance for the support and systems in place.

*Culture = everyone has a way of doing things that is right for them and their family
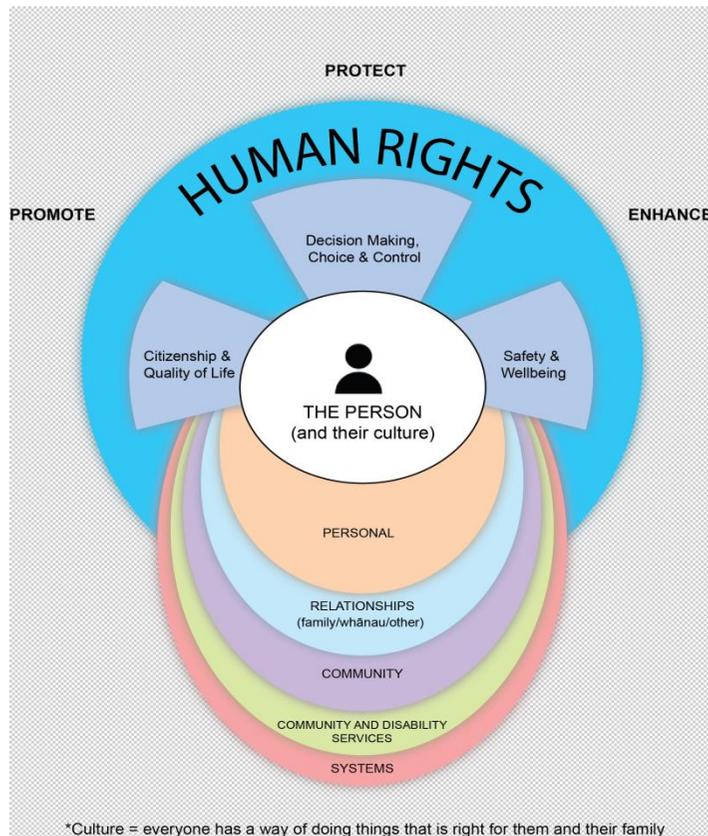
SPECTRUM OF SAFEGUARDS
Personal Safeguards

Focus on building capability of disabled people to make informed choices about their supports and lives, including taking risks and having opportunities like other people

Relationship-based safeguards

Focus on supporting disabled people and their whānau to strengthen their personal relationships, expand their networks of support and increase their community connections

Community safeguards

Includes building the capacity and capability of the community to create inclusive and welcoming communities

Disability and community services safeguards

Include mechanisms to protect and promote people's rights against the risks that arise within the disability support system and wider community.

System safeguards

Include the things that focus on promoting a person's rights, and wellbeing through legislation, regulations, policy and other mechanisms that have a broader focus than disability support

The Framework is underpinned by the :

Enabling Good Life Principles, Treaty of Waitangi, United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Safeguarding Framework is linked to the:

New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS) 2016 -2026, Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2014-2018
Whāia Te Ao Mārama 2017 - 2022: The Maori Disability Action Plan
Faiva Ora 2016–2021: National Pasifika Disability Plan

Principles of the Safeguarding Framework

- **Human rights:** Disabled people's human rights are protected, promoted and applied – including rights as consumers in the HDC Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights

- **Respect for individual identity and culture:** Protect and promote disabled people and their whanau's culture, sexual orientation, gender identity and spiritual identity, including their practices, values and beliefs

- **Support for decision making:** Disabled people have the support they need to make decisions affecting all aspects of their life.

- **Proportionality and risk responsiveness:** Safeguards are proportionate to risks and to a person and their particular circumstances and should, as far as possible, minimise risk, with due consideration for an individual's dignity of risk (all people have freedom to make choices that involve a level of risk, to flourish and grow from trying)

- **Prevention:** All disabled people have equal rights to protection from harm. Taking action before harm occurs. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

- **Protection:** The safety and wellbeing of disabled people is paramount. There is support and representation for disabled people in greater need. There is zero tolerance of abuse and neglect

- **Partnership:** Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Local solutions are found through individuals and providers working with their communities

- **Accountability:** Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

Safeguarding Framework three Focus Areas

BEING AWARE Developmental components	BEING HEARD Preventative components	BEING RESPONSIVE Responsive and corrective components
Building capability of disabled people Empowering and supporting people to build knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed choices, including taking risks and having opportunities like other people.	**Advocacy services** Providing individual informal advocacy and formal advocacy services through the new system and ensuring that disabled people have easy access to an Independent Advocate, when needed.	**Building welcoming, inclusive and responsive communities** Growing communities and strengthening community connections so that communities are welcoming and inclusive of disabled people, including the provision of reasonable accommodations.
Building capability of whānau Empowering and supporting whānau to support their family member to make decisions about what they want out of their lives.	**Supporting decision making and communicating decisions** Ensuring disabled people who need support to make decisions have people they trust and the support they need to make their own decisions about their life; and	**Responding to complaints and serious incidents** An independent complaints system for making complaints and ensuring that the rights of disabled people are upheld.
Building capability and capacity of the workforce, providers and the wider community To build knowledge, skills and confidence to safeguard disabled people's rights and protect people against abuse.	Promoting a common understanding, connected and consistent approach of supported decision making.	**Whole community response to preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse of disabled people** Local leadership, vision and strategic direction. Whole community response.
Providing information and tools for disabled people, whānau and providers Ensuring people are aware of their right to make their own decisions about their lives, and the supports available for making informed choices and have the information and tools they need to consider opportunities and manage risks.	**Supporting disabled people and whānau who are self-managing their supports** Ensuring people have the knowledge, skills, confidence and tools they need to manage their supports.	**Reporting abuse and neglect** Disability abuse and neglect reporting options. **Building the capacity of the disability support system and all safeguarding mechanisms to effectively safeguard disabled people.**
Understanding abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation of disabled people Promoting a common understanding, connected and consistent approach to safeguarding disabled people from abuse. Practices and safeguards to prevent and respond to abuse of disabled people.	**Building and strengthening natural relationships and networks** Supporting disabled people and their whānau to strengthen their personal relationships, expand their networks of support and increase their community connections.	A Code of Conduct for the workforce. Legislation, standards, regulations and quality assurance. **A 'try, learn and adjust' approach for the Prototype to refine and finalise the Framework.**