



Scan for  
NZSL name



Visual description: A purple Whaikaha logo with a QR scan for the NZSL name.

Level 4, 56 The Terrace

Wellington 6011

New Zealand

5 November 2025

Elsbeth Baker-Vevers

Tēnā koe Elspeth

The Minister for Disability Issues, Hon Louise Upston has asked the Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha (Whaikaha) to respond to your email of 30 September 2025 regarding your petition titled 'Launch a Public Inquiry into Systemic Harm to People with ADHD'.

Thank you for your efforts to raise the profile of issues for people with ADHD and for describing the situation for you and your children.

I acknowledge the petition that you have prepared and that it is currently in the Parliamentary petition process, open for signatures until January 2026.

Your petition information covers a wide range of issues and helps to describe both the challenges for people with ADHD, and that all sectors of society can play a part in recognition and support.

Whaikaha recognises that people with ADHD struggle with unmet needs and fragmented available supports, and that these challenges fall disproportionately on Māori, Pasifika, women/girls, and LGBTIQ+ (Rainbow) communities. This mirrors the diversity of situations and experience for disabled people overall.

Whaikaha has been established to drive real and meaningful change for disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and their whānau. Our five functions are: system leadership and societal change; strategic policy; system level monitoring; disability information and advice; and facilitating government relationships with disabled people.

We lead the government's approach to accessibility, the New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS), and compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also advise on matters affecting disabled people, including education, health, employment, transport, and housing.



Whaikaha is currently leading the work to refresh the NZDS. As part of the consultation process to seek feedback on the draft strategy, a workshop was held with some organisations with a neurodivergent focus, including ADHD New Zealand.

The intent is to focus on priority outcome areas that will have a significant positive impact on the lives of disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori and their families and whānau. These are education, employment, health, housing, and justice, many of which you have touched on in your petition and are important for people with ADHD and their whānau.

While the proposed Strategy does not attempt cover all areas where disabled people experience challenges and barriers, that does not mean there is no activity to address those issues. There are many priorities outside the Strategy, across government and other sectors, that will make progress for disabled people. This includes the work of Whaikaha to identify accessibility improvements for disabled people overall.

We expect the final strategy and five-year action plan will be launched by the Minister before the end of the year. We will follow the progress of your petition with interest.

Ngā mihi nui



**Paula Tesoriero MNZM** ([pronoun she/her](#))

Te Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive

**Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People**

Whaikaha.govt.nz