



Hon Nicky Wagner

**Western Bay of Plenty Disability Support Trust Seminar
Bethlehem Baptist Church, 90 Bethlehem Rd, Tauranga
Friday 16 June, 10am**

Introduction:

Good afternoon.

I'm delighted to be here in Tauranga.

I'd like to thank the Western Bay of Plenty Disability Support Trust, including Chairperson Wendy Nelson, for inviting me to attend this networking event.

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 and the Outcomes Framework:

In November last year, I launched the Government's new Disability Strategy. The vision underpinning the Strategy is a non-disabling society, that is, a society where disabled people have an equal opportunity to realise their goals and aspirations.

The Strategy, which was developed based on what disabled people, their families, whānau and supporters said was most important to them, will guide the work of government agencies over the next 10 years.

Government agencies will work in partnership with disabled people, the disability sector and all New Zealanders to realise the Strategy's vision and its eight outcomes.

The outcome areas are:

- Education;
- employment and economic security;
- health and wellbeing;
- rights, protection and justice;
- accessibility;
- attitudes;
- choice and control; and
- leadership.

The Government wants to make sure the Strategy is implemented properly, and that real changes are made which enable disabled people to live their best lives.

To help monitor progress, an Outcomes Framework is being developed with specific targets and indicators.

Once the set of draft indicators has been approved by Cabinet later in the year, it will be released for public consultation. I encourage you all to have your say.

Transformation of the disability support system:

I'd now like to talk about some really exciting changes happening in the disability support system.

We know the current system doesn't work well for all disabled people. That's because, to date, it's been more about the system than disabled people themselves.

To rectify this, we're completely overhauling the system in partnership with leaders from the disability sector.

The new system is still being co-designed, so I can't yet give you specific details, but we do have some broad guiding principles.

The new system will be based on the Enabling Good Lives vision and principles. Enabling Good Lives, or EGL, takes a person-centred approach. It's about supporting disabled people, their families and whānau to think about what they want in their lives, and what support they need to make it happen.

In other words, EGL is about disabled people having greater choice and control over their lives.

Another exciting innovation in the system transformation relates to how assessments will be done. The current assessment model for providing disability support services is based on what a person *can't* do. The new assessment model will be based on what a disabled person *can* do and what they need to get them where they want to be.

Disabled people will receive a personal budget made up of funding from multiple government agencies. They'll have flexibility and choice about how to spend their personal budget, and a range of options to manage it.

We'll also be providing additional investment to help disabled people improve their quality of life and reduce costs in the longer term. This could take many forms, including:

- Purchasing equipment that enables someone to live more independently;
- investing in skill development to enable someone to gain employment; or
- purchasing services, where these are known to improve outcomes.

There'll be many possibilities. Disabled people, their families and whānau will be able to identify where investment will help improve their wellbeing.

It's also important to mention there'll be investment in capability and capacity building for disabled people to help them adjust to the new approach.

Overall, what we're aiming to do is design a new pathway through the support system that works for the greatest number of people. We're simplifying the system rather than making it more complicated.

The transformation will begin in the Mid-Central region, around Palmerston North. However, there may be some aspects we can roll out nationally at the same time.

Budget 2017 allocated \$27.1 million over the next three years for this transformation. The money is part of a broader package — \$ 205.4 million over four years — to maintain and improve disability support services.

The sector will receive an extra \$52.3 million in 2017/18, taking its total funding to \$1.2 billion for the year.

The four-year funding includes \$178.2 million for community-based home support, personal care, caregiver support and residential care, as well as equipment services.

Conclusion:

I'm committed to getting this system transformation right for disabled people, their families and whanau, so we'll keep refining the design as we go to ensure it works across the country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today. I applaud all the families, whānau, carers and people working in the disability sector here in the Western Bay of Plenty who support disabled people to live fulfilling lives.