

# **BOPDHB Position Statement**

## **Disability Responsiveness**

### **Introduction**

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) is required under legislation:

- to improve, promote, and protect the health of people and communities;
- to promote the inclusion and participation in society and independence of people with disabilities;
- to reduce health disparities by improving health outcomes for Maori and other population groups;
- to exhibit a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the people to whom it provides, or for whom it arranges the provision of, services;
- to exhibit a sense of environmental responsibility by having regard to the environmental implications of its operations.

The BOPDHB has prepared a series of position statements which demonstrate its commitment to these objectives, and outlines its viewpoint on different health issues. This position statement on Disability Responsiveness also aligns to the Health Inequalities position statement, and is implemented through the DHB's Annual Plan.

### **1.0 The Bay of Plenty DHB affirms the following:**

- 1.1 It will plan, fund, deliver, and monitor disability services for the 65+ population in the Bay of Plenty. The Ministry of Health retains planning and funding responsibility for long term support for people aged under 65 with disabilities. The DHB will work closely with the Ministry in how services are provided for the under 65 population, and ensuring a smooth transition as people reach the age of 65.
- 1.2 It will consult people with disabilities where appropriate to ensure the disability friendliness of its services.
- 1.3 It will improve access to services by improving quality and responsiveness of mainstream services for people with disabilities under the CARE values framework.
- 1.4 It will evaluate new and reviewed contracts and services, using the Disability Strategy and "Disability Friendly" Framework checklist.
- 1.5 It will support the provision of disability awareness training at Governance, Executive, clinical, support and front desk staff levels within the DHB.
- 1.6 It will support the Tauranga City Council in the implementation of the Age Friendly Cities concept, and encourage other local authorities to consider this.
- 1.7 It will ensure that all DHB owned or operated facilities and buildings meet the appropriate NZ Standards 4121:2001, the Building Act and Code and the Human Rights Act for disability access.



- 1.8 It will consider how best to communicate health and disability information to and from people with disabilities. The Health Passport initiative is one mechanism that will assist to meet this objective.
- 1.9 It will meet disability-relevant provisions when its services are audited or certified.
- 1.10 It will provide disability parking in suitable locations outside DHB facilities and buildings. It will also provide pictorial signage where appropriate within DHB facilities and buildings.
- 1.11 It will develop a specific policy on disability safety and disability friendliness by 30 June 2013.
- 1.12 It will provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities as an equal Opportunity Employer.

## **2.0 The Bay of Plenty DHB notes that:**

Disability is defined in the Ministry of Health Funding Agreement as:

A person who has been assessed as having a physical, psychiatric, intellectual, sensory or age-related disability (or a combination of these) which

- a) Is likely to continue for a minimum of six months and result in a reduction of independent function to the extent that ongoing support is required; and
- b) Is not as a result of a personal injury by accident for which eligibility for cover and entitlement has been confirmed under the AI Act; and
- c) Irrespective of whether that person is receiving Personal Health Services.” [Source: Funding Agreement 1999/00]

- 2.1 The prevalence of people in the BOP district with disabilities is unclear. NZ Health and Disability Services data for Midland suggest that prevalence is higher than the NZ average across all age ranges for both Maori and non-Maori. Within Midland, disability prevalence for Maori is significantly higher than non-Maori in every age group.
- 2.2 The BOPDHB has a growing number and proportion of older people within its population. Older people’s needs are more complex with potentially co-existent medical, functional, psychological and social needs. There will be an increased demand for dementia services in the future, as well as services to address depression. BOPDHB funding for disability services is expected to grow from an actual of \$70M in the 2010/11 year to \$84.9M in the 2014/15 year.
- 2.2 Integration of service delivery between agencies is critical with over 200 agencies providing services for people with disabilities. The Yellow Envelope initiative for aged residential care patients admitted to hospital is one mechanism that supports service integration.

**Adopted by the BOPDHB Board at its meeting on 15 August 2012**

**Review** This position statement will be reviewed in three years, or as necessary

For further information see:

[www.health.govt.nz/yourhealth-topics/disability-services](http://www.health.govt.nz/yourhealth-topics/disability-services)

NZ Disability Strategy

[www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-disability-strategy-making-world-difference](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-disability-strategy-making-world-difference)

