

Office for Disability issues

Te Tari Mō Ngā Take Hauātanga
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Consultation on Draft Enduring Questions

NASCA responses

NB: only those questions to which a response was given are included.

Overall feedback

Please provide any overall comments about the Enduring Questions, including if you think there are topics or questions missing.

These questions seem to assume that the disabled population is a homogenous group. There doesn't seem to be recognition of the complexity of the disabled population as a diverse and varied one, with a significant range in capability and capacity to self direct and engage.

The target for the questions appears to be the ~20% of population who identify as disabled in some way. But many of the questions read as more relevant to the population of disabled people who need and receive significant levels of support. In reality we wonder if in fact the enduring questions are more relevant to this subset of the wider disabled population. This comment applies across most or all of the domains.

Topic 3: Health

Details are on page 8 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.

It would be valuable to add an aspect about training and education of health professionals perhaps to question number four or as a separate question as follows.

How well are health and allied professionals trained and educated about the impact of impairments on peoples' functional capacity when receiving health assessments and services?

2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.
3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

Question 2 is a good question in the context solely of health status related to disability. However, it is pretty open ended and we wonder if there shouldn't be a supplementary question that recognises that much impairment is progressive in nature and will result in shortened life expectancy by virtue of the failure of organs and physiological systems involved. So perhaps another question is required, where there some distinction is made about progressive conditions. The concern relates to the recognition of impact and timeliness, of health supports on the rate of progression of impairment and therefore ultimately on life expectancy and quality of life.

Topic 4: Domestic Accommodation

Details are on page 9 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.
2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.
3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

Many of the issues of Domestic Accommodation, Travel, and other domains are driven by cost and affordability and by the earning capacity and socio-economic status of disabled people. So this has a direct relationship with the issues facing disabled people in education and training, in the labour market and in Standard of Living

Topic 7: Support Services

Details are on page 12 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.

Question 4 of this series poses a further question that might go something like.

How adequate is the current focus of support services, systems and central government and local government policies on responding to people in achieving social outcomes, and ensuring inclusion for disabled people?

2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.

3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

It would be better not to focus on the deficit model by referring to needs and shift the focus to outcomes, and inclusion and participation.

Topic 8: Community and Social Life

Details are on page 13 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.

How well equipped and accessible are communities, to respond and ensure access to disabled people who wish to utilise generic resources and access public services?

How does the level of social awareness, acceptance and inclusive behaviour in communities impact on the limitations to participation by disabled people?

2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.

3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

Topic 16: Personal Characteristics

Details are on page 21 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.

There should be a question that expands on number 1, about the nature of disability and what impact the type of disability has on the age structure

and gender mix in a population – i.e. the distinctions between people who have stable conditions and those with conditions that are progressive in nature and/or fatal in early or mid life, will impact age structures, and genetically determined impairments will affect the gender mix of the population.

Therefore, the questions should include the following;

Do the types of disability / impairment affect the age distribution and gender mix of a population?

2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.

Question number 2 might read better if it was written as follows;

What is the gender distribution of disabled population and does it differ from that of others?

3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

The generational impact of genetic conditions is also important to consider when thinking about population needs. i.e. children may have parents, aunts, uncles and/or grandparents presenting with the same condition that is affecting them.

Topic 17: Disability, Impairment and Limitations

Details are on page 22 of the Enduring Questions, 28 July 2016. Please provide as much or as little feedback as you would like; you do not need to answer all the questions.

1. If any questions are missing from this topic, please tell us about it.

Another question might be

What is the structure of the disabled population in terms of the broad continuum from people with impairment who are able to mitigate the impact and live life in society, through to people who require significant support and yet still do not enjoy inclusion in society?

NB: Again the whole set of questions do not appear to recognise the breadth of difference across the disabled population.

2. If any wording in this topic can be improved, please tell us about it.

3. If anything else can be changed or improved in this topic, please tell us about it.

This is an area that requires significant effort and focus. Prevalence and impact of different types of impairment are not well known or understood and the impact of genetic or familial disability have significant generational impact as do underlying health conditions.

About you

To help us ensure we are receiving feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, can you say which of the following best describes you? You can choose more than one.

- Disabled person
- Family/whanau member of a disabled person
- An interested individual
- Disability sector worker
- Responding on behalf of an organisation
- Other – please specify [Noted as other and noted New Zealand NASCA](#)