

Connect with support services outside the school

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Develop effective whole-school practices' from the Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Includes:

- Identify available support
- Locate tertiary student disability services
- Access disability support services at tertiary institutions
- Use employment services
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Connect with support services outside the school](#)

Date

11 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/connect-with-support-services-outside-the-school

Identify available support

Identify the support and services that the student is eligible for through a needs assessment. Whaikaha, the Ministry for Disabled People, maintains a list of organisations that provide needs assessment for people with a disability across Aotearoa.

If you are looking for support because you or someone you care for has a disability ... A good place to start is to get on the phone to one of our Needs Assessment Service Coordinator (NASC) organisations.

Source:

[Needs assessment services – Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People](https://www.waikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/needs-assessment-services/)
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Locate tertiary student disability services

Students talk about Student Disability Services at the University of Auckland. The support discussed in the video is typical of tertiary institutions throughout Aotearoa.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/dekVtgNOy30>

Closed Captions

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Access disability support services at tertiary institutions

Many tertiary education providers have services specifically designed to support students.

If possible, visit the service and meet face-to-face with a member of the team.

University services for learning support:

- ✓ [Otago University – Disability information and support](#)
- ✓ [Victoria University – Disability services](#)
- ✓ [Waikato University – Disability support services](#)
- ✓ [Auckland University – Student disability services](#)
- ✓ [Canterbury University – Student Accessibility Service](#)
- ✓ [Massey University – Support for students registered with disability services](#)
- ✓ [Auckland University of Technology – Disability Student Support: supporting students with an impairment](#)

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Use employment services

There are services around New Zealand which provide targeted support for people with learning support needs to help them identify job opportunities.

- [Workbridge](#) – Provides a range of free employment support services for both job seekers and employers, individually tailored to suit every individual's needs.
- [Direct career service](#) – Free career, education or training advice from a career expert in your region. Provided through the Ministry of Social Development.
- [Supported employment services](#) – New Zealand Down Syndrome Association NZSDA website has a list of services that provide employment opportunities for people with Down syndrome and other disabilities.
- [Gateway](#) – Gateway programmes offer workplace learning while at secondary school.
- [Emerge Aotearoa Employment Support](#) – Emerge Aotearoa's Flexible Disability Support Service, helps young people to build a support network around the goals they want to achieve, like education or employment options.
- [Workwise Employment Agency](#) – Workwise are committed to helping people facing personal or health challenges to find the right role to suit their skills and dreams – and help them to keep it.
- [YES Disability Resource Centre](#) – This NGO is working to ensure young people with disabilities and learning differences are well represented in governance, planning and employment.

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Useful resources



Enabling Good Lives

Promotes an approach that supports people to have greater choice and control over the support they receive, so that they can plan for the lives they want. The organisation also provides services in some parts of New Zealand.

Publisher: Enabling Good Lives

[Visit website](#)



Your guide to disability support services

A directory of general information, services and community support available for people who have a disability and their families. In English, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Māori, Fijian, Niuean and Tokelauan.

Publisher: Le Va

[Visit website](#)



List of supported employment services

List of services that provide employment opportunities for people with Down Syndrome and other disabilities.

Publisher: New Zealand Down Syndrome Association

[Visit website](#)



Whāia Te Ao Mārama 2018 to 2022: The Māori Disability Action Plan

This action plan establishes priority areas of action to enable Māori disabled to achieve their aspirations and to reduce barriers that may impede them reaching their goals.

Publisher: Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

[Visit website](#)

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