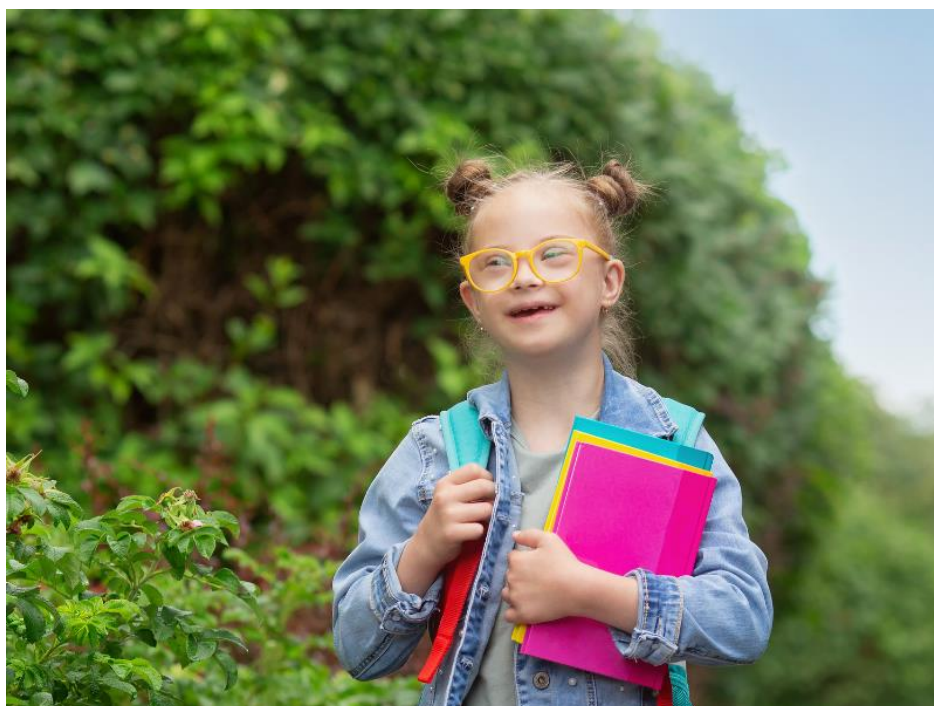




# Quality Education for Disabled Students:

**What we are saying to the news**





The **Ministry of Education** and **IHC** made an important agreement in November 2025.



The **Ministry of Education** is a part of the Government.



It makes sure all children and young people can learn well and feel safe at:

- Early Learning Centres
- Schools.



**IHC** is an organisation that works for people with intellectual disability.



This agreement will help the **education system** work better for disabled students.



The **education system** is the law, policies, money, and people that mean disabled students get what they need to learn well at schools.



IHC made a complaint under the **Human Rights Act** in 2008.

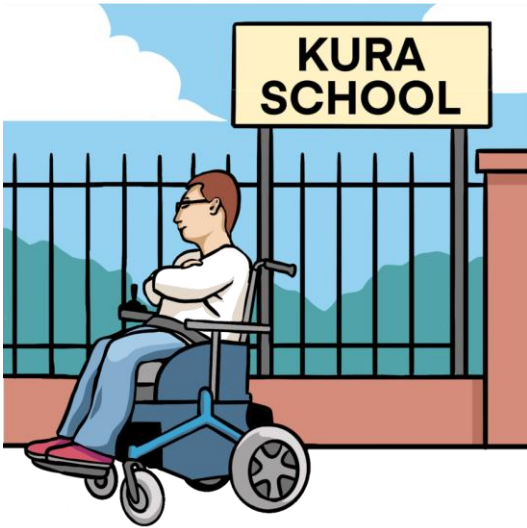
The **Human Rights Act** is a law. It says everyone must be treated fairly and with respect.



IHC took the complaint to the **Human Rights Commission**.



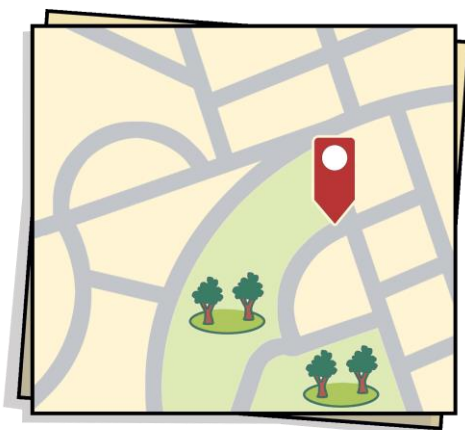
The **Human Rights Commission** is a group that helps make sure everyone in New Zealand is treated fairly.



The complaint said Government education **policies** were making it so disabled students were not being treated fairly in **local schools**.



A **policy** is a rule or plan that tells people what to do and how to do it.



A **local school** is the school that most children and young people living near you go to.



This agreement is called a  
settlement.



It ends the complaint from IHC.

# IHC says



IHC Chief Executive

Andrew Crisp says many disabled students have not had a fair chance to get a good education in New Zealand but this agreement will start to fix that.



For many years, families, whānau, teachers and **principals** have told IHC that disabled students are often left out or not given the support they need in local schools.



**Principals** are the boss of a school.

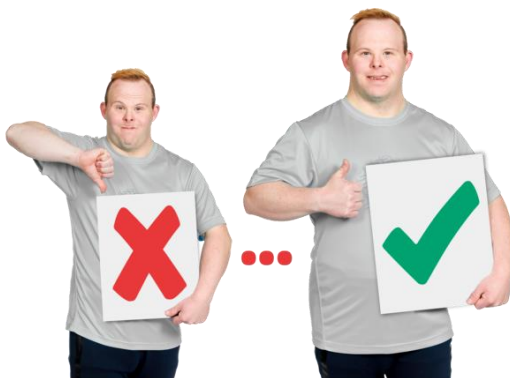




IHC listened to their stories and looked at the **data**.



**Data** is information that people collect to learn something. For example, the number of times something happens.



IHC created nine action areas that will help make things better for disabled students.

This is called the Framework for Action. The Ministry of Education has agreed to work towards this plan.



# The Ministry of Education says



The Ministry of Education agrees that disabled students have **barriers** at school.



**Barriers** are things that make it harder for disabled people.

For example:

- Being left out
- Teachers thinking disabled students cannot do things
- School rules that do not help disabled students.



The Ministry of Education said they will use the Framework for Action IHC made to help fix these barriers.

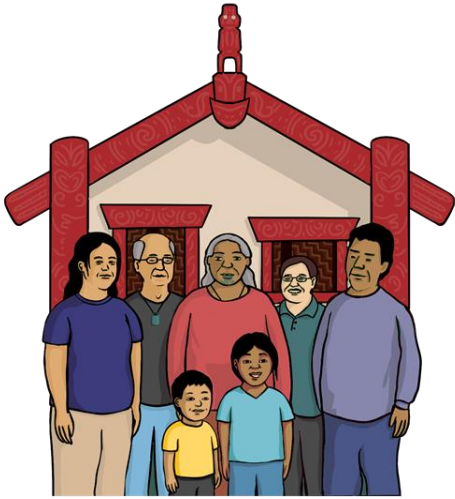


The Ministry of Education also agreed to start a **stakeholder group**



A **stakeholder group** is a group of people who care about a project or service and check how well it is going.

IHC will lead the stakeholder group.



We will try hard to include:

- Tāngata whaikaha Māori
- Disabled people
- Whānau of disabled learners
- Disability education advocacy groups
- A member of Pacific communities.



It will make sure the Ministry of Education is making the Framework of Action happen.

It will meet for at least 6 years.



The Government said it will spend \$750 million on learning support in **Budget 2025**.



**Budget 2025** is the plan by the New Zealand Government for how it will collect money and spend that money from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.



This means more early support and more help for disabled students.

# What next



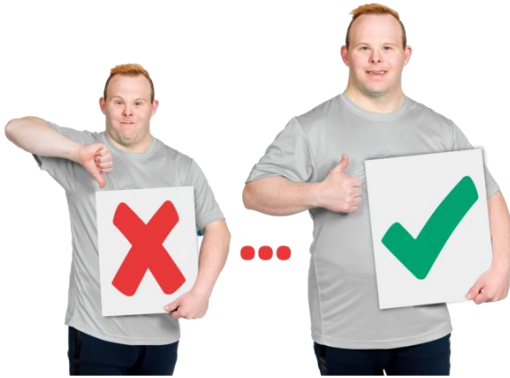
The Ministry of Education  
agreed to follow the Framework  
for Action.

IHC will work with people to  
help them understand:



- What this agreement means
- What needs to change
- How they can help make the changes happen.

# About the Framework for Action



The Framework for Action asks the Ministry of Education to look at what is happening and make things better in the education system, including:



- How they get and talk about data
- Access to **specialist support services**
- School buildings and playgrounds
- What students are learning and how we know what they are learning.







**Specialist support services**  
are people who have special  
training to help disabled  
students learn.



You can find the Framework for  
Action at:

- The Ministry of Education  
website
- The IHC website at:  
[www.ihc.org.nz/education](http://www.ihc.org.nz/education)



Nicolina Newcombe translated this information into Easy Read.



David Corner made sure this information is easy to read.