



On behalf of the members of Assistive Technology Suppliers New Zealand, we are submitting some ideas for the 2023 Disability Survey. The suggestions for improvements to the existing survey and possible additional questions are based on what our members are observing in the supply of assistive technology.

Questions could be asked of disabled people around the **equity** they experience in acquiring equipment that meets their needs. There are anomalies within ACC, where discrepancies between individuals are huge. There are anomalies between ACC and MoH in how disabled people's equipment needs are being met.

Enabling Good Lives vision, principles and objectives affect the outcomes for disabled people. The vision is that in the future, disabled people and their families will have greater **choice and control** over their lives and supports and make more use of natural and universally available supports. Asking disabled people about the level of choice and control they currently have, would set a baseline for measuring the outcomes of the EGL approach.

Question that could be asked to set a baseline:

- Thinking about the last time you received equipment for your impairment, how much input did you have in the choice that was made?
 - 1-none at all, 2-not very much, 3-some input, 4-quite a bit of input, 5-a lot of input,

Questions that could be asked to get some insight into existing issues:

- Are you aware of how to access equipment needed for your impairment?
 - Yes, No, Don't know
- Thinking about the last time you acquired equipment for your impairment, how long did it take between when your need arose, and when your need was met?
 - 1-not much time at all, 2-it took a bit of time, 3-it took quite some time, 4- it took a lot of time, 5-I'm still waiting.
- Was the time frame acceptable?
 - Yes, No, Don't know
- Were you treated equitably in acquiring equipment to meet your need?
 - 1-not at all, 2-not really, 3-somewhat, 4-mostly, 5-absolutely

Pg. 10 Q2/3 Could use following age groups:

- Under 16
- 16-65
- 65 and over.

This is in-line with NASC / Lifelinks funding for supports and MOH equipment and housing funding applications. Also, which team disabled people come under i.e., under 16yrs child development service, over 16yrs transition to adults team and Lifelinks funding, over 65yrs come under older persons health team and NASC funding which has tighter criteria especially around equipment and housing modification supports available.

Pg. 10 Q5 Need to know if disability is under ACC or not.

It makes a huge difference to the funding support / equipment / housing modifications available to the individual. Client can have same functional needs but one under ACC may have wet area shower and the other struggles with basic shower equipment, potentially putting client and carer at risk of injury and carer fatigue e.g. spinal injury caused by road traffic accident so ACC funded versus burst spinal abscess under MOH - both paralysed - different criteria and supports available.

Pg. 12 Q6

- Have carers got ALL relevant essential equipment in place to make this help as easy and safe as possible?
- If yes, was it fully funded, part funded or self-funded?
- If no, what additional supports are needed?
 - E.g.
 - Equipment
 - Housing mods
 - Additional carer hours

Pg. 14 Q 7

It's fully clear on what the difference is between alternative health care worker and other health professional.

Assume community allied health professionals fit in under 'other health professional'...it's often the community occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians, speech and language therapists, along with District Nurses etc who keep people living in the community and who likely visit the most alongside daily carer supports. Then there are usually more occasional appointments with medical specialists.

- Need to know if they got seen in a timely manner?

Pg. 14 Q8/9

- Did you receive funding for modifications to your vehicle or place of work?
- If yes, did this keep you working / working for as long as possible e.g. if got deteriorating condition
- Have you got a suitable vehicle which allows you to access the community easily and safely e.g. modified vehicle, wheelchair accessible van?
- Do you feel isolated due to restricted access to a suitable mode of transport?

Many disabled people can't get out easily as there is no funding for mods to a car or wheelchair van unless you're working or under ACC.

- Public transport - if you've used it was it overall a positive experience i.e. bus driver considerate, fully kneeled bus access / ramp, stopped slowly etc.

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- If got modifications e.g. to bathroom, do they fully meet needs?



E.g. might just have a rail and bath board and be ok with this or not ok and actually still struggling or could have fully accessible bathroom making life easy.

- If got modifications, did they get them in a timely manner or have to wait e.g. until condition deteriorated / disabled person or carer got injured struggling with environment?