

**Disabled People's Experiences of
Abortion Services in Aotearoa New Zealand**

He Pānui Pāroko
Questionnaire Participant Information Sheet

Tēnā Koe,

We welcome you to participate in research about disabled people's experiences of abortion services in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This Participant Information Sheet is to help you decide if you want to take part in an anonymous questionnaire or not.

Ko wai mātou?

Who is doing this research?

A group of disability researchers from the Donald Beasley Institute are working on this research. Some of the researchers identify as disabled, and others have worked with disabled people in research for many years.

- Assoc. Prof. Brigit Mirfin-Veitch (Kaiwhakahaere/Director)
- Dr Kelly Tikao (Kairakahau Māori/Senior Māori Researcher)
- Dr Robbie Francis Watene (Kairakahau Matua/Senior Researcher)
- Dr Solmaz Nazari (Kairakahau/Researcher)
- Umi Asaka (Paewai Rakahau Teina/Junior Research Fellow)
- Eden Tuisaula (Kairuruku/Research Assistant)
- Lydie Schmidt (Kairuruku/Research Assistant)
- Jacinta Tevaga (Kairuruku/Research Assistant)

This research is funded by Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) and is hosted by the Donald Beasley Institute, an independent disability research institute that is based in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

He aha te kaupapa o taua nei raḡahau?

What is this research about?

Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai tō tātou whānau

This whakataukī encapsulates the notion that while working in isolation might result in survival, working together as a whānau can take us beyond survival and onto prosperity.

This research seeks to understand disabled people’s access to, and experiences of, a wide range of abortion services in Aotearoa New Zealand. The findings from the research will help the government and healthcare providers to address matters of disability rights, and deliver more equitable, inclusive and accessible abortion services.

The findings will also feed into the New Zealand Government's 5-year review of the Abortion Legislation Act 2020.

He aha ai ka raḡahau i taua nei kaupapa?

Why is this research important?

***Mā te rongu, ka mōhio,
Mā te mōhio, ka mārama,
Mā te mārama, ka mātau,
Mā te mātau, ka ora.***

*From listening comes knowledge,
From knowledge comes understanding,
From understanding comes wisdom,
From wisdom comes well-being.*

Abortion is both a human right and a health issue. Under Article 25 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disabled people have the right to the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. This includes the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to non-disabled people, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health (United Nations, 2006).

While little is known about disabled people's experiences of abortion services in Aotearoa New Zealand, international research shows that disabled people have a complex relationship with sexual and reproductive health. In particular, this includes access to abortion services, as well as the right to continue with pregnancy. To ensure that disabled people have access to the health services and supports they have a right to and deserve, there is an urgent and critical need to apply a disability lens to the delivery of abortion services.

Me pēhea mātou taua nei rakahau e whakahākai?

How will the research be used?

***Te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te kahere; te manu e kai ana i te mātauraka,
nōna te ao!***

The bird that partakes of the miro berry, reigns in the forest; the bird that partakes of the power of knowledge, has access to the world!

The findings of this study will help Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) to understand disabled people's experiences of abortion services. A better understanding of disabled people's experiences will enable Manatū Hauora to address matters of equity and access, and deliver more inclusive and accessible abortion services for tāk^ātata whaikaha, D/deaf and disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Key findings from this study will be translated into accessible formats and languages and be presented to Manatū Hauora by disability community representatives. They will be disseminated using a range of strategies including but not limited to: a publicly available report, disability-led hui, peer-reviewed journal articles, and presentations to key government officials.

Mā wai e whakauru i taua nei rak^āhau?

Who can participate in this research?

In this part of this research, we are looking for 20 disabled people who have experience with a wide range of abortion services to participate in an anonymous questionnaire. This includes abortion-related mental health support or assessment, counseling, and contraception services.

The questionnaire will ask about your experiences when accessing abortion services since 2020. If you've wanted to access abortion services but haven't been able to, we'd also like to know about your experiences too. At the end of the questionnaire participants will be given the option of registering their interest in a follow up interview with one of our researchers.

Family, whānau, aiga and/or close supporters of disabled people who have engaged with abortion services, but who cannot provide informed consent on their own behalf, are also invited to respond to the questionnaire. Whānau and close supporter

participants will be asked to share their own personal reflections on the abortion service interaction (and not speak on the disabled person's behalf).

All participants must be of or over the age of 18 and be able to provide informed consent to participate.

What will I do if I take part in the questionnaire?

To take part in the questionnaire, please begin by reading the **participant information sheet**. If you'd still like to take part, you can fill out the questionnaire using the online form. Accessible formats are also available. Please go to the DBI website <https://www.donaldbeasley.org.nz/projects/disabled-peoples-experiences-of-abortion-services-in-aotearoa-new-zealandnew-project-page/>

The questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes - 1 hour to complete, depending on how much you want to share with us. At the end of the questionnaire, we will ask you if you would like to speak to one of our researchers further about your experiences, if you need further support, or if you'd like to be updated on the research project.

What will happen with the information you share with us?

This research will take part under the korowai of our guiding values, which are:

Kā Mātāpono (DBI Research Values) will also underpin this important work:

- Whakatinana – Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our practice
- Whakarakatira – Respectful
- Whakawhanaukataka – Relational
- Whakamana – Ethical
- Whakawhirinaki – Accountable

- Whakakotahi – Inclusive
- Whānau - Through uplifting whānau our journey will be one of prosperity

The research team will not talk to any other person about you or what you tell us, without your consent, unless you tell us that you or someone else is in danger and we are legally required to do so. This includes if you tell us that you are being abused, or abusing someone else. But we will talk with you before we do this.

There may be a delay between taking part in this research, and receiving a final report. It is important to note that publications from this project might be used by Manatū Hauora, Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), community health and disability support services and the New Zealand Government to help them think about how to deliver inclusive and accessible abortion services.

Any information you give will be used for this research only and will not be used for any other purpose.

What if I get upset?

Because we know some participants might want to talk about things that are upsetting, we can arrange for you to talk to a trained counsellor or support service, free of charge.

You can also pull out of the project any time before the final report or other publications are written. No one can make you take part in this project either. It is totally up to you.

What if I get hurt?

It is unlikely you will be hurt or injured during this research. If you do get upset or hurt in any way because of your involvement in this research, we will give you information about how and where you can get support.

Who will have access to my information?

This questionnaire is anonymous. While we might ask you for some general details (age, gender, disability type, etc.), these will not be used in a way that can identify you or your questionnaire responses. The research team will be the only people who have access to the details and information you share.

If you choose to register your interest in a follow up interview, further support, or interest in being updated about the project, your contact details will be kept separately from your questionnaire responses, and not linked in any way. We will use a code system to help make sure no one can identify you or your responses.

What will happen to the information and details I share in this research?

Everything you share with us will be kept securely at the Donald Beasley Institute for 10 years. After 10 years it will be destroyed.

What happens if I don't want to take part?

Nothing will happen. If you don't want to take part, that is OK. No one can tell you that you have to take part in this research. You can tell us you want to stop at any time, and all activity will cease immediately.

If you withdraw, it is your choice whether the researcher uses the information you have told them up until that time.

If you don't want to take part, but still want to know about future research, please register your interest with the DBI by phone or by email.

What do I do if I want more information about the project or Māori Cultural Support?

Brigit Mirfin-Veitch (Kaiwhakahaere/Director)

Waea mai / My phone number is: 0800 878 839 (free) or 027 479 2021

Īmēra mai / My email is: bmirfin-veitch@donaldbeasley.org.nz

Kelly Tikao - Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha (Kairakāhau Matua/Senior Māori Researcher)

Waea mai / My phone number is: 027 482 6324

Īmēra mai / My email is: ktikao@donaldbeasley.org.nz

Who can I contact if I need independent advice about taking part?

If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the research, you can contact an independent health and disability advocate on:

Phone: 0800 555 050

Fax: 0800 2 SUPPORT (0800 2787 7678)

Email: advocacy@advocacy.org.nz

Website: <https://www.advocacy.org.nz/>

Who do I contact if I have any concerns about the ethics of this research?

This research has also been approved by the Southern Health and Disability Ethics Committee (2023 FULL 18681). This means that a special group of people have made sure that the research is safe and that we will work with people in a respectful way.

Northern A Health and Disability Ethics Committee:

Phone: 0800 4 ETHICS

Email: hdecs@moh.govt.nz

Kōrero Whakamārama

We have chosen to apply the Kāi Tahu dialect when writing in te reo Māori. This means that the ng is replaced with a k (for example: whakarongo is changed to whakaroko).

We have underlined the k whenever this has been applied.