

Smoothing the Way

A Transition Guide for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Students



under the auspices of



Part 6 of 8. Know Your Rights

New Zealand law

Bill of Rights Act 1990 – Section 19 (1) and Section 5 Human Rights Act 1993 – Part II, Unlawful Discrimination

Both of these laws make it illegal to discriminate against a person because of their disability.

The Human Rights Act covers education, so universities and polytechnics must do what they reasonably can to make sure their environments are inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities. This includes:

- teaching practices
- support services
- enrolment information
- course material

For more information on these laws, see the Human Rights Commission website:
www.hrc.co.nz

Government strategy

New Zealand Disability Strategy, April 2001

This is a government plan to make New Zealand a more inclusive place for people with disabilities. It also covers education:

Objective 3: Provide the best education for disabled people

3.2 Support the development of effective communication by providing access to education in New Zealand Sign Language, communication technologies and human aids.

3.8 Improve post-compulsory education options for disabled people, including: promoting best practice, providing career guidance, increasing lifelong opportunities for learning and better aligning financial support with education opportunities.

The full document is available from the Office for Disability Issues website:
<http://www.od.govt.nz/>

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Recommendations for good practice (not law)

Kia Ōrite – Achieving Equity

New Zealand Code of Practice for an Inclusive Tertiary Education Environment for Students with Impairments, November 2004

The full document is available from the following websites:

www.achieve.org.nz

www.tec.govt.nz

www.minedu.govt.nz

3.1 Enrolment Processes

Standard 1. Enrolment, registration and induction processes take into account the physical, communication and information access requirements of students with impairments.

Standard 3. Students with impairments are advised of services available to assist them.

3.4 Access to General and Specialist Services

Vision Students with impairments have equal educational opportunity through access to appropriate support and services.

Standard 6. Students have frequent opportunities to discuss the likely impact of their impairment on their studies and the appropriate support required.

3.5 Funding and Withdrawal

Vision Funds are adequate to provide effective support services to students with impairments and flexible withdrawal policies exist that reflect their particular circumstances

Standard 1. Clear withdrawal policies and procedures exist, allowing withdrawal without academic or financial penalty if students withdraw from subjects/courses after scheduled closing dates because of impairments.

3.7b Facilities and Equipment

Vision Campus facilities, equipment and events are accessible to all students with impairments.

3.8 Teaching and learning

Vision All academic programmes are accessible to students with impairments and staff design and implement appropriate teaching and learning strategies.

3.9 Examinations and Assessment

Vision Assessment and examination policies, procedures and practices provide students with impairments with the same opportunity as their peers to achieve learning outcomes.