

The Human Rights Commission is updating its reports on the status of human rights in New Zealand and priorities for action for the next five years.

Human Rights Commission

Draft of the chapter on “The Rights of Disabled People”

In 2004 the Commission published *Human Rights in New Zealand Today: Ngā Tika Tangata o Te Motu*. This report contained a comprehensive analyses and review of the status of human rights in New Zealand. It contained chapters on the rights of children and the rights of disabled people, as well as chapters looking at specific rights including democratic rights, the rights to justice, health, education and work, etc. This report is known as the Status Report.

The Status Report formed the basis for developing a national human rights action plan, called the *New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights: Mana ki te Tangata 2005-2010*. The action plan has guided the Commission’s work advocating for the protection and promotion of human rights and provided the Government and civil society with advice and guidance on ensuring New Zealand fulfils its international human rights obligations.

The Status Report and Action Plan were written five years ago. The Commission is now updating its Status Report to reflect the human rights issues of 2010, what has improved and what still needs improving.

This updated Status Report will contain the same chapter topics as the 2004 report with the addition of a few new chapters such as Human Rights and the Treaty of Waitangi. Throughout 2010 each draft chapter will be released for public consultation.

A draft of the chapter on “The Rights of Disabled People” is now available for comment and feedback. The consultation period will run for eight weeks until **Friday 9th July 2010**. The draft disability chapter or a summary is available in alternative formats including:

EASY READ English, together with an explanation of what the status report is

New Zealand Sign Language: live on the HRC website and on DVD

Braille and audio tape (both cassette and DVD)

Te Reo Māori

These are all available together with HTML, Word and PDF versions on the

Commissions website: www.hrc.co.nz or by contacting the Commission’s Infoline Infoline@hrc.co.nz