



Nurses as agents of social change for the disability community

What people can expect from a good hospital?

- You are treated with dignity, kindness and respect and you feel that staff support and care about you
- Staff are compassionate when you need help and think ahead to plan what you might need
- The hospital thinks about your individual needs when planning your care and treatment

<https://www.org.uk/help-advice/what-expect-good-care-services/what-can-you-expect-good-hospital>

What is disability?

- Disability includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments
- Disability is created by various barriers that may hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

(NZ Disability Strategy 2001)

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 1: UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008)

"The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Article 25: UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008)

"...persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability."

The Nurse

- Is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities so they may attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life
- Has a public image as a care provider

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursing>

Nurses are able to effect change



By championing the UN Convention to uphold the rights of the disabled person

Able to directly influence the patient experience by ensuring impairment needs are accommodated



What people with disabilities say about our nurses



Nurses ...

- Wonderful, caring, helpful and genuine
- Timely and thoughtful care and treatment
- So accommodating, taking time even though the ward was very busy
- Gave full attention explaining after care
- Provided excellent nursing care and empathy




Case study: Outpatients visit

- Needed to get "lots of ducks in a row" to attend the appointment.
- *"I am always stressed at outpatients because I cannot be late without tough consequences for me."*
- *"I arrived early and explained my problem..."*

Case study: Outpatients visit



The nurse listened.
Then she...

- took me to a doctor immediately
- found a transfer board to help me get onto the specialist chair
- parked my wheelchair
- showed up after the appointment to do it all again in reverse.




Case study: Outcome

*"I was home by taxi promptly, with time to spare.
I am used to difficult days...
But not today.
Why?
Because all your staff did their jobs WELL.
Thank you so much!"*

Different approaches to disability

- Charity approach – treats people with disabilities as passive objects of kind acts who are not considered able to provide for themselves because of their impairment.
- Medical approach – focuses on a person's impairment, where individuals can be "fixed" through medicine or rehabilitation to get back to society.



Different approaches to disability

- Social approach – recognises that disability is the consequence of the interaction of the individual with an environment that does not accommodate that individual's differences.
- Human rights approach – acknowledges people with disabilities as subjects of rights and the State as having responsibilities to respect these persons.



Our drivers

Promoting human rights-based health care services that are inclusive and accessible




Disability Strategic and Performance Team

- Rachel Noble – General Manager Disability
- David Darling – Senior Development Lead - Disability
- Rachel Anderson – System Development Leader
- Sarah Murtha – Project Support Coordinator
- Maori Disability Advisor
- NZSL Project Lead



Disability Responsiveness Educators

Hutt Valley DHB:

- Robyn Armour - Disability Advisor

Wairarapa DHB:

- Heather Atkinson - Disability Responsiveness Advisor

Capital & Coast DHB:

- Kathy Pauga – Disability Responsiveness Educator; Capability Development Team



Our drivers

- Human rights: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Equity: - access
- participation
- Better health outcomes
- Presence/visibility
- Valuing the disability community
- Disabled leadership
- Citizenship
- Ease through the health journey





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