1. **Why government agencies need to collect disability data?**

The United Nations Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities requires governments to collect disability data to identify and address the barriers disabled people face. The Sustainable Development Goals likewise require data to be disaggregated by disability.

The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 notes that disabled people have often been invisible in government decision-making because they have not been counted or had their needs understood.

The Disability Action Plan 2019-2023 includes an expectation that all government agencies will promote the use of the Washington Group sets of questions on disability in government surveys.

1. **How to collect and analyse disability data?**

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics is an international group of experts in disability data. They have several question-sets that can be used in surveys. You can access the question sets here:

<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/>

The basic six question set (called the Short Set) is the minimum that must be used in any government run or funded survey. If there is space and time, we recommend the two longer question sets, enhanced and extended, are used as they improve the data collected.

If collecting data on children, we recommend the child functioning set is used. Statistics New Zealand has a shortened version of the child functioning set.

Guidelines for analysing the Washington Group question sets are available here:

<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/publications/implementing/>

1. **How to use and publish disability data?**

The purpose of the Washington Group question sets is to compare outcomes for disabled people with non-disabled people. When publishing data on outcomes and/ or service use, use data disaggregated by disability status.

Note, the Short Set was not designed to produce prevalence estimates of the number of disabled people. Just use it to compare outcomes.

Treat disability data like any other demographic characteristic. If you usually disaggregate an outcome or service use measure by demographic characteristics, do so with disability.

There are often differences in outcomes between older and younger disabled people so, where possible, also disaggregate disability data by age and/or produce age standardised data.