



Since 2016 a small but dedicated Portfolio subgroup of the Social Justice Commission in the Anglican Church has been educating, advocating, and resourcing for the full inclusion and accessibility of people and whanau with lived experience of disability in our church.

Since early 2022 this Portfolio Group have engaged the Rev'd Vicki Terrell [as an 0.5 Educator focussed on Resource Development] and Ms Cherryl Thompson [as an 0.5 Educator focussed on Engagement]. For 4 years Vicki has brought many years of considering disability and theology into the posters, newsletters and press releases she has composed – while Cherryl has included her thinking from many years working in inclusion in sport into the parish, diocesan and church sector oral addresses she has presented. Whenever Vicki and Cherryl offer their material, it is gratefully received as empowering of disabled people, thoughtful and applicable.

In August 2024 the Group agreed to adopt Jessica Hughes' impressive "Accessible Weave incorporating the Tongan 'kafa' knot", as above, as a brand for the Group's work. In October 2024 The Portfolio Group applied and was successful in leaving its umbrella identity of the Anglican Social Justice Group and becoming its own standalone group accountable directly to Standing Committee. At its February 2025 meeting we renamed ourselves more concisely as – **Te Taura Whaikaha Mihinare - The Anglican Disability Network ... educating, equipping and advocating** Our website with fuller narratives about us and our available materials can be found at <https://anglicandisability.org/>.

The 5 members of the Oversight Group take much pride in realising that the 2 Disability Ministry Educators have achieved a Working Theological Statement on Disability, 24 educational visits to various parishes, episcopacies, and inter-tikanga events; 8 accessibility audits of ministry locations; 13 liturgical worship resources; 21 posters on disability; 8 newsletters; and 6 articles on disability issues for Anglican Taonga Online.

Yet our Oversight Group is only too well aware that the work of the DMEs is only beginning as we resource our denomination to embrace and include disabled people more convincingly - and we continue to identify what are the issues of social justice for the disabled in our society. It is a disheartening inditement on our country that out of the 6 articles our Development Educator Vicki has submitted to Anglican Taonga 3 have had to critique our present government and it's dismissive cutting of disability allowances and support.

Hence as Te Hīnota Whānui-General Synod will find in its papers, both the Oversight Group and the 2 Ministry Educators advance a motion asking for continued support and funding towards the Anglican Disability Network's very critical endeavours.