



## Office of Hon Tony Ryall

Minister of Health

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Dear Project Reference Group and key project participants

### Spinal Cord Impairment (SCI) Action Plan 2014 - 2019

People living in New Zealand with spinal cord impairment along with their families and whanau frequently face barriers to access services, supports and to participate in their communities. The acute care, rehabilitation and support needs of people with spinal cord impairment have a major impact on people with spinal cord impairment. Needs are individualised and varied and present a challenge to current health and disability support services as well as wider public services to provide the level of specialisation required.

Good work has been carried out with the development of the SCI Action Plan 2014 - 2019 which focuses on a continuum of supports and services which may be accessed at different stages depending on the need at a particular time. We note that it contains new initiatives and significant improvements to existing services under eight objectives which when implemented will result in better outcomes for people with spinal cord impairment, their families and whanau.

We are impressed by the work of people with spinal cord impairment, their families, peer support groups, community providers, clinicians, District Health Boards, Accident Compensation Corporation and the Ministry of Health in collaborating on the development of the Action Plan and of what we have achieved so far.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed to the development of this Action Plan and we would ask all stakeholders to commit to its implementation. We look forward to receiving updates on the progress of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Tony Ryall  
Minister of Health

Hon. Judith Collins  
Minister for Accident Compensation Corporation