# New Zealand's Plain Language Act 2022 — A Statutory Plain-Language Duty for the Public Service, Repealed Before Any Outcome Evaluation

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · New Zealand

Quality score: 48/100

Evidence strength: Moderate


### *Summary*

A 2022 law required NZ public service agencies to write public-facing documents in plain language, appoint plain language officers and report yearly. It took effect in April 2023. Cabinet chose repeal in December 2024, before any outcome evaluation.


### *Key dimensions*

| Dimension | Score |
|---|---|
| Innovation level | 2/5 |
| Sustainability (ongoing) | 0/1 |
| Evaluation evidence | 0/1 |
| Demonstrated reach | 1/1 |
| Documented learning | 1/1 |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

### *Data sources*


C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-15

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission — accessed 2026-11-15

Cabinet paper: Repealing the Plain Language Act 2022 (Public Service Commission) — accessed 2026-11-15

Public Service Commission Annual Report 2024 (plain language compliance) — accessed 2026-11-15

Plain Language Act 2022 — legislative history (Wikipedia) — accessed 2026-11-15

BusinessDesk: The Plain Language Act is dead! Long live plain language? — accessed 2026-11-15

Disabled Persons Assembly submission on the Repeal Bill — accessed 2026-11-15



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