“I am a citizen too”

People First New Zealand questions for politicians

In September 2017 there will be a national election.

The people of New Zealand will be voting for the Government.

People First New Zealand has made some questions for you to ask politicians.

We are calling this campaign “I am a citizen too”.
Question 1: Services and support

I am a citizen too and the support I need is not the same as what someone else needs.

Will your party keep going with the work to change the disability support system, so people get services and support that are right for them?
Question 2: Jobs

I am a citizen too and I want to get a job.

Many workplaces will not give me a chance.

What will your party do to change this?
Question 3: Money

I am a citizen too and I need money to live, just like everyone else.

Many disabled people spend all their adult lives on a benefit and don’t have enough money to live on.

They have to choose between having food and going to the doctor.

What will your party do about increasing the rate of the supported living payment?
Question 4: Education

I am a citizen too and I have the right to an education.

What will your party do to make sure that children and young people with learning disability can learn alongside others in regular inclusive schools?

What will your party do to make sure lifelong learning is accessible for people with learning disability?
Question 5: Safety

I am a citizen too but as a person with learning disability I am more likely to be abused.

The Police and anti-violence agencies are not trained to work with me.

What is your party going to do to change this?
Question 6: Language

I am a citizen too but the media and other people in my community say things like I suffer from my disability or I am wheelchair bound or I have the brain of a child.

How people talk about disabled people affects my life.

What is your party going to do to change the words people use about us?
Question 7: Housing

I am a citizen too and I have a right to warm, dry housing that I can afford.

The 2013 Disability survey found that disabled people are more likely to live in damp rental houses and find it harder to stay warm.

What is your party going to do to change this?
Question 8: Changing attitudes

I am a citizen too but lots of people treat me differently, disrespect me, and make fun of my friends and I.

Article 8 of the United Nations Disability Convention says that Governments need to make sure that disabled people are treated with respect.

Governments also need to make sure more people understand disability.

What is your party’s plan to educate communities and change attitudes towards disabled people?

Will you make a law to make being disrespectful to disabled people a crime?
Question 9: Health

I am a citizen too and I have a right to good healthcare.

What is your party going to do to make sure the people with learning disability get better healthcare?
Question 10: Never again

I am a citizen and so were the thousands of disabled people who lived in institutions and the foster care system.

Does your party think the Government should look into the abuse that happened in these places?

Does your party think the citizens that were abused deserve an apology from the Government?
Question 11: Access

I am a citizen too and a law about accessibility would protect my rights to access information and the places I need to go.

Does your party support having a law about making things accessible for all New Zealanders?