

Green Paper: Student Union Public Declaration

Student Council Notes

The Department of Social Protection has released a Green Paper which aims to reform disability allowance under a three-tier system, to be called Personal Support Payment unifying Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind pension.

Student Council further Notes

A Spending Review from the Department of Social Protection points out that approximately 150,000 people receive Disability Allowance and also highlights the increasing number of young people under the age of 30 who receive Disability Allowance. Beneficiaries will be classified based to one of three tiers based on their disability, the tier that they are placed in determines what benefits they are eligible to receive. The lower tiers come with a stipulation to undertake a form of employment.

Student Council notes with Concern

The Green Paper has received criticism from multiple disability awareness groups. While the payment at tier 1 and tier 2 are set to be higher than what the Disability Allowance currently is, it still does not cover the cost of living and the cost of disability. There is currently little information about how people will be categorized into the tiers and there are fears that the process will be “medicalized”, not considering the how different disabilities can have a wide range of impacts.

Student Council Believes

There are also concerns around the obligation to work under the new proposals and fears that the allowance may be withheld if a person is unable to follow the work/training plan.

Student Council Mandates

The Students' Union Executive to publicly denounce the proposed reform in its current reform.

Student Council Further Mandates

The Vice President for Welfare & Equality, with oversight/authority by the PTO for Disability, and President, to prepare a statement on behalf of the Students' Union, by the next Student Council, making students aware of this Green Paper, its dissatisfaction with listed aspects, and to show solidarity with the advocacy groups regarding the disabled community.

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