31 July 2012

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

United Nations Office

Geneva, CH 1211

Geneva 10

registry@ohchr.org

disability@ohchr.org

Dear Mr Stefano Sensi

**Subject: Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Human Rights Council resolution 19/11**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in response to the Human Rights Council resolution 19/11 concerning work and employment of disabled people.

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission is New Zealand’s National Human Rights Institution with responsibility for monitoring and reporting on New Zealand’s compliance with international human rights standards. The New Zealand Government has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and designated the Commission as one of three independent organisations with responsibilities to monitor and report on the implementation of the CRPD, with the others being the Office of the Ombudsmen and the Disability Convention Coalition (a coalition of Disabled Peoples Organisations).

The Commission recognises that disabled New Zealanders are one of the most disadvantaged groups in New Zealand. Its programme of work to protect, promote and monitor disability rights included a report published in July 2011 called “Tracking equality at work for Disabled People”. This report addresses fundamental inequalities faced by disabled people in employment.

The report includes:

* a detailed overview of issues faced by disabled people in the labour market
* promotion of Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities relating to work and employment
* an examination of international obligations and New Zealand legislation that impacts on disabled people at work
* the first set of Equality at Work Indicators with disability measures developed in New Zealand to track progress towards equality at work
* a detailed overview of labour market participation and what this means for disabled people
* a set of recommendations for the Human Rights Commission and the Government to push on with strengthening equality at work for disabled people and others.

This report is attached in PDF and Word formats, and is available on the Commission’s website at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/2011/tracking-equality-at-work-for-disabled-people-how-is-new-zealand-going>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. If you have any queries please contact Victoria Manning, Policy Analyst – Disability, VictoriaM@hrc.co.nz

Sincerely



Victoria Manning

Policy Analyst, Disability

Human Rights Commission