

**Speech Competition Guide | Rare Disorders Month School Kit**

Holding a speech competition is a great way for students to engage in self-directed learning to become knowledgeable and passionate about rare disorders, while encouraging the audience to do the same.

* As a school, year group or class, you could organise a speech competition where students persuade the audience why ‘New Zealand needs a dedicated strategy for rare disorders’.
* This could be suggested as a topic for a wider speech competition, or it could be a dedicated theme.
* Alternatively, students could use this theme as a prompt for a persuasive writing piece.
* Encourage students to research:
  + How the NZ healthcare system supports rare disorders patients compared to other OECD countries.
  + The prevalence of rare disorders in NZ, and how it compares to common health disorders
  + Experiences of rare disorder patients in NZ. They may even have a friend, schoolmate or family member who they could interview.
  + What the NZ Government has promised to deliver, compared with what they are still yet to achieve
* Provide students with information from our [key resources folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12bPht-WnU0XrZ7dDtZRQLH69xDOx7T6y?usp=share_link) to help direct their research.
* Send in any photos or videos from the speech competition to [RDNZadmin@raredisorders.org.nz](mailto:RDNZadmin@raredisorders.org.nz)