Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Annual Report

2023/2024

Image free version

Note: this image free version does not include the Performance Report, which can be found in the [PDF version of DPA’s Annual Report](https://www.dpa.org.nz/store/doc/DPA-Annual-Report-2023-2024-FINAL.pdf).

If you have any questions about our Performance Report, please email: [info@dpa.org.nz](mailto:info@dpa.org.nz)

# Acknowledging those who have passed

Kua hinga ngā Totara i te wao nui a Tane. Ki ngā whatukura me ngā māreikura o tēnei mahi rangatira, moe marie i to kainga tuturu.

The Totara trees have fallen in the forest of Tane. To the esteemed men and the esteemed women of this chiefly work, sleep peacefully in your permanent home.

On behalf of everyone at DPA, we offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, whānau, and friends of our members in the disability community who have passed away this year.

In particular, we acknowledge:

* Sir Robert Martin KNZM, DPA former staff member and past   
  DPA member
* Roger Marsden, DPA Christchurch Past President, and NEC member
* Stephanie Awheto, Ngāti Ruanui/Taranaki   
  NZSL–English–Māori interpreter
* Dr Pauline Boyles, DPA Life Member
* Poihaere Morris, Whakatane past member.

To those who have passed, we will continue to build on your legacies and uphold your commitment to the inclusion of disabled people in all our mahi.

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# DPA strategic vision

DPA works to improve society for all disabled people in New Zealand and around the world.

The Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) is a pan impairment disabled people’s   
organisation (DPO) that works to realise an equitable society, where disabled   
people of all impairment types are able to direct their own lives.

DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people to be recognised as valued members of society.

DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs,   
government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations,   
and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* celebrating innovation and good practice.

# DPA organisational values

Equity, Transparency, Integrity, Creativity, Independence, Inclusivity, Diversity

DPA commitments

We recognise:

* Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding   
  document of Aotearoa New Zealand
* the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities   
  as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State
* the Social Model of Disability as the guiding principle for analysis   
  of disability and impairment.

Source: Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) NZ Strategic Plan 2018–22

# DPA National Executive Committee 2023–2024

**President** – Joanne Dacombe

**President Elect** – Kera Sherwood-O’Regan

**Committee members** – Jason Boberg, Julian Carvalho, Ollie Goulden, David King, Tara Shepherd

# DPA staff as at 30 June 2024

**Chief Executive:** Mojo Mathers

**Policy Team:** Chris Ford (Policy Advisor), Patti Poa (Policy Advisor)

**Business Team:** Michael Nolan (Business Manager) Sharyn McCann (Finance Officer and IT Administrator), Dev Singh (Accountant)

**Communications and Engagement Team:** Pip Townsend (Manager) Sam Morgan (Digital Communications Coordinator), Miriam O’Connor (Regional News), Anja   
Hajdarevic (Web developer)

**Kaituitui Team:** Ingrid Robertson (Kaituitui Ōtautahi), Amy Taylor (Kaituitui Ōtepoti)

# From our President

Kia ora koutou,

2023–2024 has seen some monumental changes to New Zealand in the disability landscape and this created a very busy year for DPA and the NEC.

There were significant disability support services restrictions (effectively cuts) announced by Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People in March this year. These restrictions consumed a great deal of our capacity, as members made it clear that they’d like this to be one of our priority areas. As President I spoke at Mana, near Wellington, at one of the many rallies held around the country against the cuts and spoke of disability rights, and the Enabling Good Lives approach required. We outline DPA's comprehensive response in this report.

It is worth noting the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care and Faith Based Institutions was completed and the final report (16 volumes, which makes for harrowing weighty reading) was tabled in Parliament on 24 June 2024. I acknowledge and thank those DPA members who contributed to this work – there were several directly involved, including myself. As I write this the apology is still to come and the process for delivering on the 138 recommendations is still to be announced.

DPA has been extremely busy over this last year as Mojo Mathers settled into her new role as our Chief Executive, including preparing her first budget. We have been fortunate this financial year to return a small surplus despite originally budgeting for a deficit. However, we are anticipating a deficit next year as previous large project work comes to an end, and existing funding has remained largely static while costs continue to increase.

We are still fleshing out our strategy and we acknowledge the need to socialise the strategy and actively work in the implementation of supporting operations. Special thanks to all committee members for their active participation over and above our regular meetings.

We have slightly changed our meeting structure to allow for NEC members only time to review some of our governance policies, so we can get these tidied up and implement good practices also review our work to align with our strategy.

We are also working on improving communication with you our members around what we do on the Committee. Our new website should make this easier. We also hope that you might consider how you can contribute to the DPA or consider standing in future elections for NEC.

I also take this time to acknowledge the passing of Sir Robert Martin, a past DPA member, and a very active disabled leader. He worked tireless for disability rights and his legacy will endure.

My thanks to my fellow committee members for working as a team during another busy year. I acknowledge Kera Sherwood-O’Regan who is taking the reins as your new President. I am sure she will be very dedicated and thank her for taking on such a huge role.

I also acknowledge and thank Ollie Goulden, and Jason Boberg for their hard-working service and insights shared over the past two years during some very busy times. I want to also thank our newer NEC members who came on after the AGM last year: Tara Shepherd and Juliana Carvalho for stepping up and into their roles. I also acknowledge David King’s contributions and who continues for another term with the NEC.

My huge thanks to our Chief Executive and her staff on a very demanding year.

Lastly, I thank you, our members, for remaining engaged and committed to DPA and its vision for a society where disabled people are thriving and achieve equitable outcomes.

Joanne Dacombe  
President  
National Executive Committee

# From our Chief Executive

Reflecting on my first year as Chief Executive, I am conscious that this year has been a challenging one for DPA, our members and community on multiple levels.

One of my first priorities after starting in September 2023 was to meet and hear from members about their ideas for DPA’s policy and advocacy work and   
membership engagement. This engagement included one-to-one online meetings, an in-person meeting with older members in Wellington, and online members’ hui. The input we receive from members helps to guide DPA’s work and priorities.

Alongside this engagement, we have also reviewed the National Office structure and recruited new staff to fill the multiple staffing vacancies. Nearly all DPA staff (including myself) are now in new or updated roles to better implement DPA’s strategic areas of focus and to build greater capacity and resilience across the team.

We have also invested from the outset significant time and effort into establishing and building relationships with other organisations and groups where we have shared interests and values to work collaboratively and collectively on equity and inclusion for disabled people.

This has proven to have been essential in the current social, political and economic environment. DPA’s new management team had to work very hard to pivot in response to the announcements around changes to Whaikaha and Disability Support Funding from March 2024 onwards. DPA’s extensive response and engagement around these announcements is outlined in this report. Responding to these announcements has had a flow on impact – delaying or pausing other important work programs.

One silver lining has been an influx of organisations seeking to join DPA as organisational members in support of our mahi. This has been most encouraging, and there are multiple benefits for everyone in the relationship building and collaboration opportunities that this creates.

As DPA’s Chief Executive, I also sit on several national bodies including the Earthquake Commission (now the Natural Hazards Commission) National Reference Group and the Interim Disability Reference Group for Te Puna Aonui.

This year saw DPA's first MOU with the Otago Regional Council with an agreement to meet quarterly for discussions on a range of issues impacting disabled people.

Building relationships with funders has been another major area of focus. We have been fortunate to secure generous funding from the Rata Foundation, Christchurch City Council and Dunedin City Council to support our teams in Ōtepoti and Ōtautahi regions. We are working to secure other funding to expand our mahi into other regions.

I am immensely proud of how all DPA staff have stepped up to the challenges we have faced while at the same time coming to grips with their new roles, delivering on their work commitments and keeping the rights of disabled people front and center.

I am particularly grateful to my colleagues Michael Nolan and Pip Townsend for their unflagging support and dedication. I would like to also acknowledge the support that DPA’s National President Joanne Dacombe has provided throughout the year as well as the support we have had from many members.

It is an immense privilege to be able to serve as your Chief Executive, but this is only made possible through the support of all of you for DPA's mahi.

I want to thank every DPA member has taken the time to email us, join a hui or forum, send in feedback for submissions, fill in a survey or recruit new members to DPA. It is your engagement and input that provides the foundation for all that we do.

Mojo Mathers  
Chief Executive  
Disabled Persons Assembly

# A year in review

From welcoming our new Chief Executive and reshaping our team to deliver on our priorities, to engaging with our members, and the 18 March announcement of immediate changes to the disability support funding –here’s a summary of what we achieved.

## DPA staffing changes

In the last year there has been a major turn over in staffing at DPA. In 2023 we farewelled Paul Brown, Angela Desmarais and Emily Tilley and welcomed new Chief Executive Mojo Mathers in September, new Business Manager Michael Nolan and Communications and Engagement Manager Pip Townsend in November.

An early priority for our new Chief Executive was to set up a new management structure for DPA, review and update staffing roles and recruit staff to the vacant positions. One of the motivations for establishing a new management structure has been to build greater organisational capacity and resilience and support a more distributed model of disabled leadership.

We have been delighted to have Michael Nolan join DPA to take up the new Business Manager role. Michael comes with 30 years of experience in the tourism industry and brings with him strong financial and business skills. Along with Sharyn McCann and Dev Singh, Michael provides support for DPA’s Chief Executive and staff across our organisation, covering IT, payroll, invoicing, annual audit, funding applications and financial reporting. Michael has also recently taken on representing DPA at the weekly DPO Coalition managers’ meetings and the monthly full coalition meetings.

Also from late 2023, we were fortunate to have Pip Townsend take up the Communications and Engagement Manager role. Pip has lead responsibility for our communications and engagement, including putting out DPA’s Information Exchange weekly which is a vital channel for information sharing, communication and engagement with members and the wider disability community. Pip also manages our membership database, oversees our social media communications and website development, co-ordinates logistics for DPA members hui, and supports the CE and President with responding to media inquiries and a thousand and one other tasks.

In February 2024, DPA welcomed Sam Morgan into the new Digital   
Communications Coordinator role, joining Pip, Anja Hajdarevic and Miriam O’Connor on DPA’s communications and engagement team. Sam has taken responsibility for our communications across DPA’s social media platforms and is leading work to create digital resources for DPA’s new website that will be launched in early 2025.

The policy roles have been restructured to merge the former regional and national policy roles to create more capacity for submissions to local and regional councils. In March 2024, we were delighted to be able to host a hybrid mihi whakatau from the Braintree meeting room when we welcomed Patti Poa into the DPA team.

Patti has lead responsibility for local and regional submissions in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) and Te Tai Tokerau (Northland), while Chris Ford covers the rest of the motu. Between the two of them they have developed an efficient and productive submissions process, and it has been rewarding to see their efforts bear fruit with DPA’s recommendations being picked up by local and regional councils.

The regional kaituitui role has been revised to have an expanded focus on supporting emergency preparedness and climate mitigation for disabled people in the regions as this was one of the areas of focus that came through strongly from our survey of members priorities. Our former administration support Amy Taylor moved into the kaituitui role for Ōtepoti, joining Ōtautahi Kaituitui Ingrid Robertson and both are working hard on a programme of forums for their regions.

## Creating a disability inclusive workplace

More than 90% of DPA’s staff identify as disabled, which places a particular onus on DPA to model what a disability inclusive workplace looks and feels like. We regularly review and revise our policies in this area. At present there are three key policies that underpin DPA’s commitment to disability inclusive employment.

* **Living Wage Employer** – DPA is proud to have become an accredited living wage employer, which means that all staff are paid at least the living wage.[1](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)
* **Disability leave** –DPA has now brought in disability leave for all staff. Disability leave is time off work for an impairment-related reason for staff or a dependent. Disability leave is in addition to usual sick leave entitlements and helps support equity and wellbeing for all staff.
* **Flexible working arrangements** – flexible working allows staff to do their job at a time, place and way that helps them balance life and work. This includes being able to request a change to hours of work and working from home.

## Membership engagement

Membership engagement is vital to inform DPA’s policy and advocacy work. In October, members joined our Chief Executive Mojo Mathers, and our President Joanne Dacombe, at a hui to talk about members priorities.

Information from that hui was used to generate a survey to test the ideas we had heard in the brainstorming session with our wider membership. The survey ran from Saturday 24 February to Friday 8 March, with 80 responses.

Three clear themes that emerged as priorities for DPA to develop a focused workplan:

1. Income (benefits and employment) for disabled people
2. Emergency preparedness and response for disabled people, including climate response and mitigation
3. Housing.

Other areas that were highlighted in the survey that are important for disabled people’s rights and to be reflected in DPA's work were Te Tiriti justice, Takatāpui and LGBTQIA+ rights for disabled people, and disability data.

There are many other topics that we cover in regional submissions and discussions with central and local government, wherever possible, including transport, health – equity and ethics, digital equity, accessible information, accessible public buildings, facilities and parks, and impact of new technologies.

However, following the announcement on 18 March 2024 about the changes in disability support funding and equipment modification services, members endorsed DPA shifting to focus on responding to these changes.

## Responding to cuts to disability support funding

The sudden announcement on 18 March 2024 of cuts to Disability Support Funding and Equipment Modification Services had an immediate impact on our members and staff and the ramifications continue to be felt within our community to this day.

DPA received a mandate from members at a members’ hui to prioritise work on an ongoing response to these cuts ahead of previously identified membership priorities.

Despite providing comment to media multiple times, it proved to be very difficult for DPA to get our voices heard in the initial outcry, and it became clear that a more strategic and ongoing response by us was needed.

Critical to our response was working with those affected across the wider disability community, including our members, disabled people, parents and whānau, carers, disability organisations and providers to share and understand how the changes were affecting our community. This networking was key to creating a sustained, informed and comprehensive response.

## Understanding the impact on the community

Our first DPA survey about the funding changes was sent out on 20 March.[2](#_Appendix_3:_Notes) In the survey, we asked how the changes were affecting the disability community received 180 responses within a few days. We reported on the initial survey results[3](#_Appendix_3:_Notes) on the 6 April and followed up with the full report on the survey on 19 April 2024.[4](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

Later in April, after information had been released by Whaikaha to clarify the new rules, we sent out a follow up survey to gauge whether the affects had lessened for the community.[5](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

### Open letter signed by 71 organisations

Ultimately, the outcome of our engagement and networking was an open letter[6](#_Appendix_3:_Notes) to Ministers Upston and Willis signed by an initial 52 organisations with final support of 71 organisations. The work on the open letter was led by DPA with support from Action Station and members of the Fairer Futures Coalition.

In our open letter, we called on Government to:

* fully reverse the restrictions within the Disability Support Services Purchasing Guidance and to Equipment and Modification Services made on 18 March 2024
* recognise disability support and services as frontline work and fund accordingly
* ensure an equitable, culturally responsive approach to resourcing support and services to disabled people across the whole of Government
* recognise that people with disabilities and health conditions are the experts on the barriers we face by increasing income and employment support and removing sanctions that cause harm to disabled people
* support meaningful involvement of disabled people, whānau and the wider disability sector in all Disability Support System reviews and high-level decisions.

Minister Upston responded to the letter on 22 July 2023.[7](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

Below is a snapshot of some of the other actions, engagement and media DPA took following the 18th March announcement – it is by no means a complete list.

**Support for local actions** – DPA shared and promoted community hui, public meetings and protests via social media and our newsletter throughout the motu.

**Public meeting at Porirua** – DPA President Joanne Dacombe spoke at a public meeting in Porirua organised by Labour MP for Mana Hon Barbara Edmonds.[8](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

**People’s Press Conference (23rd May)** – Mojo Mathers, DPA CE, spoke to the impact of the different cuts and our vision for a Budget that takes care of people.

**Disabled People Against Cuts Aotearoa rally at Parliament** (29th May) – Mojo Mathers, DPA CE, gave a speech highlighting the importance of flexible funding for disabled people’s safety and wellbeing.

DPA also made a significant contribution to the Action Station report: “A Thousand Cuts: An assessment of the cumulative impact of recent Government decisions on disabled people and other communities”.[9](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

Our work on this report led to Mojo Mathers, being interviewed by Newsroom about the impact of the cuts.[10](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

### Policy and advocacy

This year, DPA has continued to advocate on behalf of our members and the disability community with senior government officials, ministries and Crown Entities as well as local and regional councils.

As it is not possible for us to advocate on every issue, members’ priorities inform and guide strategic areas of focus for our policy and advocacy work.

Over this period, we made 13 submissions on Bills, Inquiries, and other parliamentary consultations, 17 submissions to government agencies, and 48 regional submissions – these are listed in Appendix 1.

The purpose of these submissions is to make sure that disabled people’s views, along with those of their family, whānau and carers are voiced to decision makers on topics that most affect disabled people.

In shaping these submissions and our advocacy work, we are informed by our members, our collaborating organisations, and the wider disability community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with us – whether it was answering our surveys, attending our hui, emailing us and meeting with us to share your views and experiences.

Our advocacy work extends to having DPA representatives throughout the country on national and regional advisory groups. These representatives ensure the voices of disabled people are included across sectors.

See Appendix 2 for a list of advisory groups on which DPA has representatives.

### Consumer Care Guidelines: A Case study

During the 2023–24 year, DPA has had several successes in terms of policy gains from submissions.

One of them was with the Electricity Authority (EA), which regulates and monitors our country’s electricity system.

In late 2023, the EA began a process of consultation over their Consumer Care Guidelines, which outline how power retailers should treat their customers.

One of the key issues for disabled people has been the need for better service from power companies, particularly when it comes to being able to state that people have health, or disability needs which means they need to be prioritised for the restoration or continuation of power if it goes off.

Our policy advisor Chris Ford led DPA's advocacy in this area. As part of our submission, we recommended the need for retailers to accurately record information about a person’s disability or health condition and what their communication needs were, so that they were not sent information in inaccessible formats by power companies.

The EA agreed to insert these requirements into their guidelines, which are expected to be made mandatory for all retailers in 2025.

### Speaking up about employment inequalities

Advocating on the employment of disabled people and income has continued to be a high priority for DPA and that every New Zealander has the right to gain and maintain employment.

In August 2023, Statistics NZ released statistics showing that the employment gap between disabled and non-disabled working-age people continues to widen.

Working age disabled people now have less than half the employment rate of non-disabled people and disabled people still earn far less than non-disabled people, despite often having a higher cost of living.

In our media release: “Disabled people let down as employment gap widens”,[11](#_Appendix_3:_Notes) Joanne Dacombe, DPA President, highlighted that systemic barriers that prevent disabled people from employment, including the difficulty in accessing and maintaining equitable support.

Following this DPA CE Mojo Mathers met with the Chief Executives of MSD and Whaikaha to talk about how they could better uphold their obligations to supporting disabled people into employment.

One of the outcomes from this meeting was a commitment from MSD to hold a forum on employment and changing attitudes of employers to hiring disabled people. This forum was held on 14th June and there was a constructive wide-ranging discussion from participants. MSD officials have committed to a follow up forum at a future date.

### Advocating for enforceable accessibility legislation

In announcing that the Accessibility Bill was not going to be progressed before the 2023 elections, Priyanka Radhakrishnan, the now former Minister for Disability Issues, acknowledged the Accessibility Bill wasn’t giving the disability community what it asked for.

At this time, DPA reiterated that the design of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill is structurally flawed and called for the Bill to be redrafted via a genuine co-design and co-production process with disabled people, disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) and the wider disabled community, as recommended by the United Nations.

We also called for the Accessibility Bill and the needs of disabled people front of mind for the upcoming national elections.

The purpose of these submissions is to make sure that disabled people’s views, along with those of their family, whānau and carers are voiced to decision makers on topics that most affect disabled people.

In shaping these submissions and our advocacy work, we are informed by our members, our collaborating organisations, and the wider disability community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with us – whether it was answering our surveys, attending our hui, emailing us and meeting with us to share your views and experiences.

Our advocacy work extends to having DPA representatives throughout the country on national and regional advisory groups. These representatives ensure the voices of disabled people are included across sectors.

See Appendix 2 for a list of advisory groups on which DPA has representatives.

The responses were highlighted in a “scorecard”,[12](#_Appendix_3:_Notes) which created much discussion within our community, with the media headline stating that “Greens, Te Pāti Māori and TOP ace disability issues scorecard”.[13](#_Appendix_3:_Notes)

A key takeaway of the scorecard is that disabled people need to be informed … to look at those policy areas that we identified and decide if those are policy areas that they want to see action,” said Joanne Dacombe, DPA President.

“If we make up 24% of the population ...   
then we should be using our vote.”   
 —Joanne Dacombe, 19 September 2024

Leading up to the election, DPA members took part in forums around the country to find out what disability policies were included in candidates’ campaigns.

DPA, along with disability youth advocate Natasha Astill, hosted an online conversation to discuss the barriers for voting for young disabled people who were first time voters and to encourage them to vote. Natasha shared her experience for her first time voting. We were joined by staff from the Electoral Commission, who were able to take back recommendations and questions leading up to voting.

DPA and the Livingwell Disability Resource Centre held an election event with candidates from National, Labour, Greens, NZ First and an Independent candidate from the Taieri electorate who discussed a wide range of disability issues, including accessibility legislation, employment, welfare and transport.

### Local and regional engagement

DPA works across the regions to support local advocacy by members and ensure local information is fed into our submissions throughout the country.

For most of the year, while we were going through a period of change at our National Office, our Kaituitui team was reduced to one with Ingrid Robertson holding the fort in Ōtautahi Christchurch. We were delighted to be able to increase to two with Amy Taylor joining the team as Kaituitui for Ōtepoti Dunedin in June 2024 and we are actively planning for next steps.

A priority for DPA has been to rethink how we can deliver locally, and to trial a new model based on the feedback from our team, members, the wider community and those organisations we work with.

We are fortunate to have strong relationships with local and regional government in both Ōtautahi Christchurch and Ōtepoti Dunedin and are building these with other Councils across the country as the opportunity arises.

For many of our local events, we are grateful to be supported by members who volunteer their time to talk with the public about DPA, what we do, and how they can be involved, such as the Next Steps Expo that was held in July 2023 in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

In Ōtautahi Christchurch, key engagements for 2023 to 2024 included:

* **What matters most? forum** – co-hosted with the Christchurch City Council to talk about the Draft Long-Term Plan in August 2023.
* **Consultation on Council’s Equity and Inclusion Policy** – a DPA forum with Christchurch City Council to talk about the Equity and Inclusion Policy that was open for consultation in October 2023
* **DPA stall at the BrainTree Expo** – in November 2023, at the stall, to raise awareness of issues that affect the disabled community we asked visitors feedback on ‘What’s working?’ and ‘What’s not working?’.
* **Health and disability forums** – DPA partnered with Nationwide Health and Disability Advocates to deliver education sessions, one in January 2024, one focused on ways consumers can feel safe to speak up and gain confidence to problem solve and self-advocate.

The second, held in March 2024, was for providers and offered strategies for complaints resolution and quality improvement policies so that every complaint becomes an opportunity for learning and quality improvement.

* **Show your Ability** – DPA booth at Pioneer Stadium April 2024
* **National Council of Women, Christchurch branch** – in April 2024, Kera Sherwood-O’Regan, our President Elect, spoke about indigenous womens’ rights and disability.

### International engagement and advocacy

Engaging and advocating internationally has long been a part of DPA’s core work, which has been continued in 2024.

In early May 2024, DPA Business Manager Michael Nolan met with the Cook Island National Disability Council (CINDC), taking opportunity while in the Cook Islands for personal reasons. Discussions at that meeting were about the challenges for the disability community within the Cook Islands, the CINDC strategic plan, emergency preparedness, funding for disability related projects within aid packages, and transport.

Later that month Michael Nolan and Pip Townsend met with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in Auckland to hear about and discuss the PDF’s strategy and action plan. This included identifying ways DPA, as a member of the PDF could be further involved with supporting the overall wellbeing of disabled people in the Pacific. We will be considering how we can strengthen this workstream in 2025.

Patti Poa, DPA Policy Advisor, also began work on a shadow report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women (CEDAW). The first step was to establish relationships with disabled women, who would inform the content of the report, with the final report due in September 2024.

# Thank you to our funders

A big thank you from Disabled Persons Assembly NZ   
to our funders for your support.

* Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People
* New Zealand Lottery Grants Board
* Rata Foundation
* Trust Waikato
* Ministry of Social Development
* Christchurch City Council
* Dunedin City Council

# Appendix 1: List of DPA submissions 2023 to 2024

## Bills, Inquiries, and other parliamentary consultations

Contracts of Insurance Bill, June 2024.

Privacy Amendment Bill, June 2024.

Corrections (Victim Protection) Amendment Bill, May 2024.

Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill, May 2024.

Budget Policy Statement, April 2024.

Courts (Remote Participation) Amendment Bill, April 2024.

Fast track Approvals Bill, April 2024.

Firearms Prohibition Orders Legislation Amendment Bill, April 2024.

Justice Select Committee Inquiry into the 2023 General Election, April 2024.

Parole (Mandatory Completion of Rehabilitative Programmes) Amendment Bill,   
April 2024.

Te Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (Improving Mental Health Outcomes) Amendment Bill, March 2024.

Emergency Management Bill 2023, November 2023.

Residential Property Managers Bill, October 2023.

## Government and Crown Entities

Annual Scheme Access Reporting, Accident Compensation Corporation, April 2024.

Safer Online Platforms and Media, Department of Internal Affairs, August 2023.

Consumer Plan Comparison and Swapping, Electricity Authority, March 2024.

Retail Market Monitoring, Electricity Authority, February 2024.

Consumer Care Guidelines, Electricity Authority, October 2023.

Retail Market Monitoring, Electricity Authority, February 2024.

Consumer Plan Comparison and Switching Consultation, Electricity Authority, October 2023.

Code of Insured Persons Rights, EQC Toka Tū Ake, November 2023.

Inquiry into North Island Weather Events 2023, Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events, November 2023.

Interim Report of the Independent Electoral Review, Independent Electoral Review, July 2023.

Inquiry into Climate Change Adaptation, Inquiry into Climate Change Adaptation, November 2023.

Draft National Policy Statement on Transport, Ministry of Transport, April 2024.

Anti-viral Criteria, Pharmac, August 2023.

Public consultation on modernising our approach to the 2028 Census, Statistics NZ, June 2024.

Review of Adult Decision Making Capacity Law, Te Aka Matua o te Ture Law Commission, June 2024.

E scooter declaration, Waka Kotahi, August 2023.

On demand public services, Waka Kotahi, August 2023.

## Regional submissions

### Te Tai Tokerau | Northland

Speed Management Plan for the Tūtūkākā Coast, Hikurangi and Ōakura, Whangarei District Council, June 2024.

Long Term Plan, Kaipara District Council, May 2024.

Mangawhai Community Park - Master Plan Review, Kaipara District Council,   
May 2024.

Long Term Plan 2024-27, Far North District Council, April 2024.

Te Mahere Roa Long Term Plan 2024-2034, Northland Regional Council,   
April 2024.

Long Term Plan 2024–34, Whangarei District Council, April 2024.

### Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

Achilles Crescent Reserve playground renewal, Auckland Transport, June 2024.

Proposed concept plans for Clevedon Village and Clevedon Showgrounds, Auckland Council, May 2024.

Shoreline Adaptation Plans: Pākiri to Mathesons Bay, Ti Point to Sandspit and Snells Beach to Ōrewa, Auckland Council, May 2024.

Shoreline Adaptation Plan: Kaipara Harbour, Auckland Council, May 2024.

Belle Verde Reserve playground renewal, Auckland Council, April 2024.

Achilles Crescent Reserve playground renewal, Auckland Council, April 2024.

Long Term Plan 2024–34, Auckland Council, March 2024.

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan, Auckland Council, August 2023.

Storm Recovery Resilience, Auckland Council, August 2023.

Future Development Strategy, Auckland Council, July 2023.

### Waikato

Draft Long-Term Plan 2024 – 2034, Rotorua Lakes District Council, May 2024.

Draft Annual Plan 2024–2034, Hamilton City Council, May 2024.

Draft Long-Term Plan 2024–2034, Waikato Regional Council, April 2024.

### Te Moana-a-Toi | Bay of Plenty

Regional Land Transport Plan 2024 – 2034, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, June 2024.

### Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara | Wellington

Draft Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034, Greater Wellington Regional Council, June 2024.

Willowbank Play Area Renewal, Wellington City Council, June 2024.

Coastal Reserves Management Plan, Wellington City Council, June 2024.

Long Term Plan 2024-34, Wellington City Council, May 2024.

Regional Land Transport Mid-Term Review, Greater Wellington Regional Council, April 2024.

Te Awa Mapara Draft Wellington Community Facilities Plan, Wellington City Council, August 2023.

Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Wellington City Council, August 2023.

Frederick Street Park Upgrade, Wellington City Council, July 2023.

### Waitaha | Canterbury

McLeans Grassland Reserve Management Plan – Pre-Draft, Christchurch City Council, June 2024.

Long Term Plan 2024–2034, Christchurch City Council, April 2024.

Regional Land Transport Plan, Environment Canterbury, February 2024.

Regional Long-Term Plan 2024 2034, Environment Canterbury, February 2024.

Speed Management Plan, Christchurch City Council, October 2023.

Glendovey Road and Idris Road Improvements, Christchurch City Council, August 2023.

Outdoor Dining Policy Review, Christchurch City Council, August 2023.

Wigram and Hayton Road Intersection Upgrade, Christchurch City Council, August 2023.

Gateway to New Brighton, Christchurch City Council, August 2023.

Draft Naming Policy, Christchurch City Council, August 2023.

Cruising and Prohibited Road Times, Christchurch City Council, July 2023.

Draft Spatial Plan, Christchurch City Council, July 2023.

### Ōtākou | Otago

Draft Annual Plan 2024–2025, Dunedin City Council, April 2024.

Draft Annual Long-Term Plan, Otago Regional Council, April 2024.

Draft Dunedin Future Strategy, Dunedin City Council, February 2024.

Destination-Playgrounds, Dunedin City Council, November 2023.

Speed Management, Dunedin City Council, September 2023.

Reserves Management Policy Review, Dunedin City Council, July 2023.

Transport-Choices-South-Dunedin, Dunedin City Council, July 2023.

### Ōtākou me Murihiku | Otago and Southland

Mid-Term Land Transport Plan Review, Otago Regional Council and Environment Southland, March 2024.

# Appendix 2: Advisory groups with DPA representatives

## National Advisory Groups

* DPO Coalition – DPA is a member of the Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO) Coalition. The role of the Coalition is to engage with government to support the implementation of the all-of-government NZ Disability Strategy through the Disability Action Plan.
* National Hazards Commission (formerly EQC) National Reference Group
* Parliamentary Access Reference Group
* Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) – Disabled Persons Advisory Group
* New Zealand Disability Support Network (NZDSN) – Employment Guidelines Refresh Advisory Group
* Careerforce Support Worker Qualification Development Advisory Group
* DBI Elimination of Violence Research Project Disability Advisory Group
* Interim Disability Reference Group
* Manaaki Kōrero Steering Group
* Disability portfolio, Tauiwi caucus, Te Ohaakii a Hine-National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST)

## Regional Advisory Groups

* Auckland Public Transport Accessibility Group (PTAG)
* Auckland Capital Projects Accessibility Group (CPAG)
* Christchurch Accessibility Reference Group, Environment Canterbury
* Accessibility Access Group, Christchurch City Council
* Accessibility Housing Group, National Public Health Service Te Waipounamu, Christchurch
* Waitaha Enabling Good Lives, Leadership Group
* Waimakariri Access Group
* Workforce Central Dunedin Hub Board
* Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tahono Media Allies Group
* Dunedin City Council Disability Issues Advisory Group

# Appendix 3: Notes

1. Find out more about the living wage at: <https://www.livingwage.org.nz>
2. DPA’s response to the sudden changes to disability support purchasing rules. 20 March 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/dpas-response-to-the-sudden-changes-to-disability-support-purchasing-rules>
3. Disability funding changes – initial DPA survey findings. 6 April 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/disability-funding-changes-initial-dpa-survey-findings/>
4. DPA survey results for disability funding changes. 19 April 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/dpa-survey-results-for-disability-funding-changes/>
5. Disability funding changes – how are you? A DPA survey. 26 April 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/disability-funding-changes-how-are-you-a-dpa-survey/>
6. 52 organisations (and counting) sign DPA open letter. 17 May 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/52-organisations-and-counting-sign-dpa-open-letter/>
7. Minister Upston’s response to the open letter. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/response-from-minister-to-open-letter/>
8. Speech at public meeting about funding cuts, Porirua. 28 April 2024. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/speech-at-public-meeting-about-funding-cuts-porirua-28-april-2024/>
9. Action Station. May 2024. A Thousand Cuts: An assessment of the cumulative impact of recent Government decisions on disabled people and other communities. Source: h<ttps://actionstation.org.nz/publications>
10. Walters, Laura. 29 May 2024. Effect of Govt cuts on disabled people ‘cruel’ – report. Newsroom. Source: <https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/05/29/effect-of-govt-cuts-on-disabled-people-cruel-report/>
11. DPA Press Release: Disabled people let down as employment gap widens. 15 August 2023. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/disabled-people-let-down-as-employment-gap-widens/>
12. Election 2023 – Disability Issues Scorecard. 17 September 2023. Source: <https://www.infoexchange.nz/election-2023-disability-issues-scorecard-3/>
13. Bhatia, Ripu. 19 September 2023. Election 2023: Greens, Te Pāti Māori and TOP ace disability issues scorecard. Stuff. Source: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/pou-tiaki/132964221/election-2023-greens-te-pti-mori-and-top-ace-disability-issues-scorecard>

**Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**PO Box 27-524, Marion Square, Wellington 6141  
New Zealand**

**www.dpa.org.nz**