May 2023

To Auckland Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Barry Curtis Playground Renewal

For any further inquiries, please contact:

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**Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/5E544A3A23BEAECDCC2580FE007F7518/%24file/faiva-ora-2016-2021-national-pasifika-disability-plan-feb17.pdf) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

* **Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.
* **Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.
* **Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.
* **Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this development and sees it as a positive step as part of the Council’s programme to make playgrounds more inclusive, accessible and user friendly for all children and their families/whanau in Auckland.

In fact, we would like to see all Auckland playgrounds transition towards being built on universal design principles and with all equipment being fully accessible and inclusive to everyone, including disabled children and young people.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that more inclusive play equipment be installed in the upgraded Barry Curtis Playground to give every child the opportunity to participate in play. This should be achieved through installing equipment, which is universally designed, inclusive and usable with features including sufficient width, space and elevation, enabling the parents/caregivers/support people of disabled children the ability to navigate and play with equipment easily.  |

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| **Recommendation 2:** that seating be placed around the playground at varying heights (either higher or lower) and include armrests so that people with mobility impairments, children and older people can easily get in or out of the seats.  |

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| **Recommendation 3:** that any new paths from the street and throughout the playground provide for universal accessibility, and this includes for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids, children’s pushchairs, as well as blind and low vision people. Tactile strips should also be added to aid ease of navigation for blind and low vision people around the playground and park area.  |

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| **Recommendation 4:** that any safety surface on the playground should not be comprised of unsafe materials including, for example, bark which can be difficult for wheelchair and mobility aid users to navigate around. More suitable alternatives should be used instead. |

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| **Recommendation 5:** that more trees are grown, and shade tarpaulins installed so that there will be more shaded play areas, especially during Summer.   |

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| **Recommendation 6:** that a wheelchair user friendly drinking water fountain be placed on the playground, and preferably at a medium height where both wheelchair and mobility aid using adults and children can access it.   |

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| **Recommendation 7:** DPA would like to be involved in any further discussions on the playground alongside other local disability organisations/stakeholders.     |