May 2024

**Tēnā koutou ki te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Council**

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the Clevedon Village and Clevedon Showgrounds concept plans

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# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly

**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/$file/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:**

**Rangatiratanga | Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Pārongo me te tohutohu | Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

**Kōkiri | Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

**Aroturuki | Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The submission

**Introduction**

DPA welcomes the opportunity to engage with Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Council Clevedon Village and Clevedon Showgrounds concept plans.

Clevedon’s diverse landscapes provides Aucklanders, New Zealanders, and overseas visitors with so many great opportunities to enjoy, live and play.

**Disability demographics**

According to Statistics New Zealand’s 2013 Disability Survey, Auckland had a disability population rate of 19 percent.[[1]](#footnote-2)

If the 2013 disability population numbers are overlain with the estimated 2023 total Auckland population of 1,739,300, then there at least 330,467 disabled people currently residing within the city’s boundaries.[[2]](#footnote-3)

This number is set to increase even further as the population ages as there is a strong correlation between ageing and disability.

This number is set to rise exponentially as Statistics New Zealand is forecasting that there will be 1,000,000 plus people aged 65 years and over living in Aotearoa by 2028.[[3]](#footnote-4)

The increasing number of disabled and older people is why all councils – including Auckland Council – should plan and invest in the development of fully accessible, inclusive communities.

**Access and movement for disabled**

Currently there is not equity of access for disabled people to Council services and projects. There must be more investment in the following priorities which are important to Auckland’s disabled community:

* Affordable, accessible, active public transport including essential road safety, walking and cycling improvements.
* Building and sustaining accessible, connected communities where everyone can live without barriers to their participation in terms of good housing, infrastructure, community facilities and parks.
* Developing a climate resilient, environmentally friendly city that can withstand the challenges of climate change and contribute to its reversal.
* Enabling the participation of disabled people in the economic life of the city as workers, consumers and entrepreneurs.
* Enabling the participation of disabled people in the artistic, cultural, sporting, recreational and social life of the city.
* Ensuring that the voices of disabled people can be heard in all decisions, especially those that impact on our disabled communities across Tāmaki Makaurau

**Environment impact on disabled people**

DPA supports Council’s aim to support the wider ecological and natural systems of the Wairoa Valley, reintroduction of native plant life and the transition to a pedestrian and cycle friendly village centre.

The impact on the disabled community during last year's extreme weather events highlights the importance of climate resilience being an integral part of the Council plan. Creating climate resilience for our disabled community is high priority as in times of a weather crisis, the disabled community are often an afterthought. DPA would ask that any new builds of playgrounds consider the placement to improve drainage to ensure a safer and better play environment.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that Council consider the possible impact of flooding on a playground and ensuring that where possible the impacts can be mitigated. |

**Accessible events and activities**

DPA advocates for the participation of disabled people in all aspects of community including artistic, cultural, sporting, recreational and the social life of the city. So this includes both the physical environment and the events that are happening in your different spaces which include the Village Green, Community Hall, Community Deck, Bike Hub, District Centre, Sports Fields, Tennis Club, Bowls Club, Youth Hub, Events Building, A and P Show Building, Pony Club and Equestrian Facilities.

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| **Recommendation 2:** thatthe Council include the participation of disabled people in all aspects of community including artistic, cultural, sporting, recreational and the social life of the city which includes both the physical environment and events occurring in different spaces. |
| **Recommendation 3:** thatCouncil ensures architects, landscape designers, engineering consultants, project management companies, placemaking agencies and infrastructure companies are reminded of Council’s commitment to Universal Design. |

**Disabled people and disabled community**

Accessibility is a core principle of the UNCRPD, and a key outcome of the Aotearoa New Zealand Disability Strategy. It affects every area of disabled people’s lives, from the homes we live in, the places we work and the extent to which we can move around our communities.

DPA supports appropriate development within sustainable environmental limits to protect the health, wellbeing, and economic opportunities of the disabled community in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is essential that disabled people can have input into the decision-making processes of projects that impact on our health and wellbeing.

DPA supports a civil garden as they are beneficial to the wellbeing of all. If it is to be a community garden for people to work in, it would be useful to have a raised garden which is more accessible.

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| **Recommendation 4:** that Council collaborate and or consult with the disability community, including disabled people, their family and whānau, and carers/supporters. |

**Accessibility for all**

DPA is concerned that accessibility appears to be largely invisible within this plan and there is an absence of a disability lens, which is disappointing given the existence of Council’s commitment to universal design, the Auckland Disability Action Plan and Auckland Council Disability Reference Panel.[[4]](#footnote-5)

DPA’s submission focuses on taking a disability and accessibility approach both for disabled people, and their family and whānau, and guardians/support people. This also might be parents taking their non-disabled children out and for disabled children spending time with their non-disabled parent/s or older family members taking out their grandchildren.[[5]](#footnote-6)

We have several recommendations to ensure that any new playground development is made more accessible and inclusive, especially for disabled children.

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| **Recommendation 5:** that the following design features be included in the Village and Showground upgrade:   * playground should have more inclusive play equipment installed with the mixture of nature-inspired play elements and rural-themed structures, thereby giving every child the opportunity to participate in play. * that seating be placed around the playground of varying heights (either higher or lower) and should include armrests so that people with mobility impairments, children and older people can easily get in or out of the seats. * that tables with seating to enable a wheelchair or mobility aid to be easily inserted alongside people sitting on benches should be incorporated into the designs too. * that any pathways or walkways from the street to the playground should provide for universal accessibility, and this includes for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids, children’s pushchairs, as well as blind and low vision people. * thatpathways have clear pedestrian access as seating, bin locations and bollards can cause blockages for manual wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, walking frames, mobility scooters and people who are blind or low vision. * thatCouncil providesufficient mobility parking permit spaces in both the carpark and overflow carpark. * that fully accessible public toilets and shower (with changing facilities) should be established on the park so that both children and adults can use such facilities if they are at the playground. * that a wheelchair user friendly drinking water fountain should be placed on the playground, and preferably at a medium height where both wheelchair and mobility aid using adults and children can access it. * that a shade tarpaulin be installed so that there will be more shaded play areas during Summer. * that with the change from a physical library to a mobile library, it is important to remember that with an ageing population, it would benefit all including disabled if the mobile library is accessible. * that with the move of the Clevedon Plunket Clinic to the District Centre site, it is a reminder that this space needs to be accessible for all as mothers with prams need accessible spaces too |

1. Statistics NZ Disability survey: 2013. <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/disability-survey-2013> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Statistics NZ Subnational population estimates (RC, SA2), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996-2023 (2023 Boundaries). <https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7979> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Statistics NZ Subnational population projections, by age and sex, 2018(base)-2048 (2028 boundaries). [https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7979#](https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7979) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Auckland Council. (2022, Aug). Disability Operational Action Plan August 2022 Update. <https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2022/08/DIS_20220822_AGN_11018_AT_files/DIS_20220822_AGN_11018_AT_Attachment_89832_1.PDF> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Welfare Expert Advisory Group. (2019, Feb). *Current state: Carers of people with health conditions or disabilities*. <https://www.weag.govt.nz/assets/documents/WEAG-report/background-documents/9513d6b9b0/Carers-of-HCD-010419.pdf>, pp 6-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)