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To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the Avebury Park 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/$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:**

* **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 supports the proposed re-development of the Avebury Park Playground by Council. We welcome the proposal to make much of the new playground equipment more accessible for everyone, including disabled children and adults.

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

This should be achieved through installing equipment, including at Avebury Park, 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.

The accessible playground built by the CCC in Halswell Domain provides a great example of what could be done in the new Avebury Park Playground upgrade.

## How to improve Avebury Park Playground

**DPA’s Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1:** in terms of spinning options that the Orex or Orion spinners would be suitable as well as the accessible carousel given that they can support disabled children.

**Recommendation 2:** that either one or both interactive flowers and petal drum would be useful in providing stimulating musical play activities, including for disabled children.

**Recommendation 3:** that the swing options need to be changed by adding an accessible swing that could hold both disabled children and adults.

**Recommendation 4:** that a wheelchair user friendly water drinking fountain be placed in the park.

**Recommendation 5:** that picnic areas include tables which have open spaces so that both wheelchair and mobility aid users can access them.

**Recommendation 6:** that seating be placed at strategic points along the path 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. These seats should also be placed in areas where there is vegetation already in place to ensure access to shade and shelter.

**Recommendation 7:** that at least one mobility parking space or pick up/drop off points be sited near the playground.

**Recommendation 8:** that further engagement is undertaken with disabled people and our Disabled People’s Organisations [DPOs] around this re-development.