

January 2023

To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Sabina Playground – Second Round of Feedback

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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 is very pleased to see many of our earlier recommendations reflected in the updated Sabina Playground plans. In particular we are pleased to see the following included:- an accessible entrance way, provision for planting of trees to provide shade during the warmer months, provision of easily accessible play equipment and an inclusive picnic table where disabled people (especially those who are wheelchair users or have other mobility impairments) can sit.

We note that the second round of consultation is focused on landscaping issues. The only thing we would like to recommend is that trees be planted all around the boundary of the playground to provide sufficient shade in summer. Given that climate change is now a reality and with many even warmer summers predicted to come, this will be an increasingly important consideration.

As any trees will take years to fully grow and mature, the use of shade awnings within the playground should be considered as well. Otherwise, we are fully supportive of the proposals made for the Sabina Playground.

DPA is available to be reached out to if any further advice is needed through both our Regional Policy Advisor Chris Ford and Christchurch Kaituitui, Ingrid Robertson.

# DPA’s Recommendations

DPA recommends that:

1. trees be planted all around the boundary of the playground to provide sufficient shade in Summer. As any trees will take years to fully grow and mature, the use of shade awnings should be considered as well.
2. We are available to be reached out to if any further advice is needed through both our Regional Policy Advisor Chris Ford and Christchurch Kaituitui, Ingrid Robertson.