

August 2023

To Christchurch City Council,

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Wigram and Hayton Road Intersection Upgrade

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.

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),1 a foundational document for disabled people which New Zealand has signed and ratified, confirming that disabled people must have the same human rights as everyone else. All state bodies in New Zealand, including local and regional government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of this convention. There are a number of UNCRPD articles particularly relevant to this submission, including:

* **Article 3 – General principles**
* **Article 9 – Accessibility**
* **Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community**
* **Article 20 – Personal mobility**

**New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026**

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy2 to guide the work of government agencies on disability issues. The vision is that New Zealand be a non-disabling society, where disabled people have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and that all of New Zealand works together to make this happen. It identifies eight outcome areas contributing to achieving this vision. There are a number of Strategy outcomes particularly relevant to this submission, including:

* **Outcome 5 – Accessibility**

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to feedback on the Wigram and Hayton Road Intersection Upgrade. DPA supports the reasons for the upgrade. However, we would like to make some points about further improvements which would enhance the accessibility of the area for everyone, including disabled people.

The main emphasis within our comments is around the needs of pedestrians, especially disabled pedestrians.

DPA welcomes the fact that the Wigram and Hayton Road intersection will be signalised with a raised platform intersection.

DPA recommends that the intersection be audio signalled as it is not clear in the plans as to whether it will be or not. This would be beneficial for blind and low vision people when crossing the road at what is a very busy intersection.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the traffic lights at the intersection have audio signals added. |

DPA is concerned about the proposed shared pedestrian and cycle pathway recommended by Council. We reiterate our position that footpaths and cycleways should be separate but parallel from one another given that many disabled and older people are concerned about the safety hazards, including the possibility of collisions, which stem from these designs.

In the case of the Wigram and Hayton Road project, we recommend that this separation could be achieved through widening the existing pathway and demarcating the boundary between them using tactile strips or other barriers.

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the proposed cycle way and pathway be separated through widening the pathway and demarcating the boundary between them using tactile strips or other barriers. |

DPA welcomes the raised pedestrian crossing on the footpath provided it has a gentle slope which can be easily driven over to avoid unduly discomforting or injuring vehicle drivers or passengers, particularly disabled people who may live with impairments including chronic pain, brittle bones and other conditions.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that the raised pedestrian crossing has a gentle slope which can be easily driven over. |

DPA welcomes the proposal to seal the existing access to Ngā Puna Wai as this will make the surface generally flatter for pedestrians to traverse upon.