May 2023

To Dunedin City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Mosgiel Recreation Area Management Plan

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 opportunity to engage on the Mosgiel Recreation Area Management Plan.

Mosgiel-Taieri already has a significant population of disabled people, and this should be accounted for in any management plan. As our city’s population ages, there will be more disabled people living in the area and we are keen to see remaining barriers to our participation within it removed.

While the Mosgiel Recreation Area is reasonably accessible, we would like to make some recommendations to improve that, including the need to dialogue with building/property owners such as the Taieri Rugby Club which have properties in the area to make their facilities more accessible to everyone.

The changes we would like to see are around making the area more physically accessible so that everyone can participate in recreational and sporting activities in the area, including disabled people.

DPA acknowledges that some recreational venues in the area are already fully accessible including the about to be opened Te Puna o Whakaehu Mosgiel Pool, which many in the Dunedin-Mosgiel disabled community are looking forward to using in the absence of the Dunedin Therapeutic Pool.

# Mobility parking

DPA notes that there is currently a lack of mobility parking in the area, especially around Peter Johnstone Park. Currently, there is a Scout den and the Taieri Rugby Club’s clubrooms based there.

One of our members who uses mobility parks said that there is an insufficient number available, as she drops her children off to Scout group meetings there.

This member also observed that there is one mobility parking spot available at the Mosgiel Library. An increase in the number of mobility parking spaces there is vital.

A paved pathway around the Mosgiel Library car park also needs to be added to improve accessibility as well.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the DCC engage with disabled people over the placement of more mobility parking spaces within the Recreation Area.  |

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the DCC install a paved pathway around the Mosgiel Library car park. |

# Accessibility improvements: Mosgiel Memorial Park

DPA notes that mud is currently an issue in the Mosgiel Memorial Park, especially during the colder months.

When the park is muddy, it is a lot less accessible for people with mobility and age-related impairments to navigate, especially when using a wheelchair or mobility aid.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that the issue of mud around Mosgiel Memorial Park be addressed through better drainage and other measures. |

There needs to be more fencing placed around the park too for both safety and security reasons given that some young children currently run to the other side of the road from the park which is a risk for them.

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| **Recommendation 4:** that more fencing be installed around Mosgiel Memorial Park. |

Another priority is the need for accessible public toilets on the opposite side of Mosgiel Memorial Park. This would enable both disabled and non-disabled people to have easier access to toilet facilities at the park.

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| **Recommendation 5:** that more accessible public toilets are installed within Mosgiel Memorial Park. |

DPA would like to see the DCC address accessibility issues at buildings around Peter Johnstone Park including the Taieri Rugby Club Rooms, Scouts Aotearoa and any other organisation which has premises in the area.

DPA has concerns about accessibility given that our Kaituitui attended the Taieri College (The Taieri High School) reunion in 2022 at the rugby clubrooms and found the accessibility to be poor, especially in terms of there being no accessible toilets on site.

The DPA member who takes her children to Scouts says that the hall there are no ramp or other accessibility features. We are very disappointed to hear this given that Scouts Aotearoa seeks to be an inclusive organisation, including for disabled children.

DPA acknowledges that these facilities are not owned and/or controlled by the DCC itself. However, it would be good if the DCC and disabled community could open a constructive dialogue with recreational organisations based in the area to encourage greater accessibility and with DCC funding being offered to support accessibility upgrades if necessary.

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| **Recommendation 6:** that the DCC and local disabled community work together to open dialogue with organisations based within the Mosgiel Recreational Area to encourage them to make their premises fully accessible and inclusive to everyone, including disabled people. |

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| **Recommendation 7:** that the DCC offer to fund accessibility upgrades for any recreational organisation which needs them within the Mosgiel Recreational Area. |