September 2022

To Waka Kotahi

Please find below DPA’s submission on the Reshaping Streets regulatory changes consultation.

## Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

## **Prudence Walker**

## **Chief Executive**

## **021 546 006**

## **policy@dpa.org.nz**

# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-impairment disabled person’s organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people (of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people) are able to direct their own lives. DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people to be recognised as valued members of society. DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* celebrating innovation and good practice

# United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), 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 pertinent to this submission, including:

## **Article 4 - General obligations**

In particular, 4.3 – **Involving disabled people and our organisations in decisions that affect us:**

“In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.”

## **Article 9 - Accessibility**

In particular, 9.1:

“…States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications…”

## **Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community**

In particular:

“c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.”

## **Article 20 - Personal mobility**

“States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

a) Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost.”

# The New Zealand Disability Strategy (2016-2026)

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy 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, including:

## **Outcome 5 - Accessibility**

“We access all places, services and information with ease and dignity.”

# The Submission

DPA is broadly supportive of the proposals being consulted on. We agree that widespread street changes are needed to deliver on national priorities on emissions reduction, safety and providing people with better travel options.

We strongly recommend however that accessibility be added to this list of priorities.

While we are generally supportive of the proposals being put forward, we do have a couple of further issues to raise.

# Consulting with disabled people

A number of the proposals deal with issues of public consultation: Proposal 1B, 6A and 7.

DPA strongly recommends that disabled people and our organisations be named as a specific audience local authorities have to consult with during consultations on any of the new regulations when enacted.

# Parking / Drop off and pick up

Reducing traffic, closing streets and significantly changing streets will have an impact on parking (including mobility parking) which can have a significant impact for many disabled people.

Many disabled people require to be dropped off and picked up outside the address they are going to or be assisted from a side street to the address.

DPA strongly recommends that guidance on these new regulations must include best practice in these areas for disabled people.

# DPA’s recommendations

## **Recommendation 1:**

DPA strongly recommends that accessibility be added to the national list of priorities.

## **Recommendation 2:**

DPA recommends that disabled people and our organisations are specifically named as an audience that must be consulted when these new regulations are enacted.

## **Recommendation 3:**

DPA recommends that guidance accompanying the new regulations includes best practice on parking and drop off/pick up for disabled people.