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To Wellington City Council

Please find attached our submission on the Inner City Play Survey

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

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# **Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly**

**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 is providing this submission for the benefit of the Wellington City Council in its decision making around Inner City play areas for tamariki/children and whanau/families.

We would like to outline some high-level principles which should inform the planning, construction and placement of play areas in the Inner-City Wellington area.

Firstly, DPA recommends that all playgrounds be designed and constructed to universal design standards. This means that all play modes (such as swings, climbing frames etc) should have fully usable, accessible and inclusive equipment so that each mode caters for all children, including disabled children and families/whanau. Often, in Wellington and elsewhere within New Zealand, local councils only provide a token piece of accessible equipment in play areas and playgrounds (and often not even that), which means that the majority of the play equipment can only be used by non-disabled tamariki/children. While we acknowledge that having some inclusive play equipment in play areas and playgrounds is better than nothing at all, the starting principle should be that all modes of play equipment should be able to be used by everyone, including disabled people.

Secondly, DPA recommends that play area/playground projects be adequately funded, including those planned for the Inner-City. This should be the case as a local member told us that, from their experience of dealing with Council, that the reason most often cited for not having funding to provide fully accessible equipment in playgrounds is that much of the money is spent on laying the foundations which go underneath them. If this the case, then Council should allocate sufficient funding/resource to enable both the laying of foundations and the purchase of inclusive playground equipment.

Thirdly, DPA recommends that there be sufficient mobility parking spaces and drop off/pick up points nearby (including accessible bus stops and mobility van loading/unloading zones) for disabled people so that they can bring any children, family/whanau or others into inner city play spaces.

Fourthly, DPA recommends that amenities including accessible, universally designed toilets and changing areas be included within all Inner-City playgrounds or be within easily reachable, accessible distance of a play area.

Fifthly, DPA recommends that Council work in a co-design partnership with disabled people, especially disabled tamariki/children and rangatahi/youth on incorporating universal design into all playgrounds and play areas in the Wellington City area.

**DPA’s recommendations**

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

**Recommendation 1:** that all playgrounds be designed and constructed to universal design standards. This means that all play modes (such as swings, climbing frames etc) should have fully usable, accessible and inclusive equipment so that each mode caters for all children, including disabled children and families/whanau.

**Recommendation 2:** that play area/playground projects be adequately funded, including those planned for the Inner City.

**Recommendation 3:** that there be sufficient mobility parking spaces and drop off/pick up points nearby (including accessible bus stops and mobility van loading/unloading zones) for disabled people including children and family/whanau.

**Recommendation 4:** that playground amenities including accessible, universally designed toilets and changing areas be included within all Inner-City playgrounds or be within easily reachable, accessible distance of a play area.

**Recommendation 5:** that Council work in a co-design partnership with disabled people, especially disabled tamariki/children and rangatahi/youth on incorporating universal design into all playgrounds and play areas in the Wellington City area.