**2 December 2013**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Agenda for Change for disabled people**

The Disabled Person’s Assembly (DPA NZ), voicing the views of disabled New Zealanders, is working with leading government ministries such as the Ministry of Social Development, Health, Justice and Education right now on the government action plan for disabled people.

DPA Chief Executive Rachel Noble says, “DPA, has an agenda for change that covers priorities for the disabled community. These priorities include the ability to access information, city buildings, housing and transport, an effective education system and the right services so we can maximise our independence and well-being.

She says evidence shows attitudinal and environmental barriers prevent disabled people from claiming their citizenship and becoming fully productive New Zealanders.

She says, “The DPA Agenda for Change was drawn up by 70 leaders from government, service providers, disabled people and disabled persons organisations during a DPA forum held in Wellington, in late September.

“We want to remove barriers and open doors to achieve a more inclusive society. Our aim coincides with the theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is being celebrated today. It also aligns with the content of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons which has been ratified by New Zealand for implementation.”

ENDS

**Spokesperson:** Rachel Noble, DPA Chief Executive DPA is happy to answer questions. She is Deaf so please text her: 021 410300

**Accompanying information:** DPA backgrounder, including pic of Rachel