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To The Christchurch City Council

Please find attached our submission on the Robin Playground play space upgrade

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 Christchurch City Council in its decision making around the Robin Playground play space upgrade.

DPA sees that there are two options being considered by Council. While we don’t have a view as to which option is best, DPA recommends that irrespective of whichever option is chosen that the honeycomb rotating basket be included as a feature in the upgraded playground as this would enable inclusive play options for all children, including disabled children.

DPA recommends that DPA Christchurch as well as other disabled people and disability organisations be involved in further discussions on a co-design basis around the Robin Playground renewal, especially around the landscape design element of it. We believe that everything should be done to ensure the full accessibility of the Robin Playground. DPA also understands from a response provided to us by Council that it is seeking to develop a Play Spaces Network Plan in early 2023. Our Christchurch Kaituitui and/or Regional Policy Advisor is available for discussions both around this project and the new network plan [please refer to their contact details on the front page of this submission].

# DPA’s recommendations

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

* **Recommendation 1:** That irrespective of whichever option is chosen that the honeycomb rotating basket be included as a feature in the upgraded Robin Playground as this would enable inclusive play options for all children, including disabled children.
* **Recommendation 2:** That DPA Christchurch as well as other disabled people and disability organisations be involved in further discussions on a co-design basis around the Sabina Playground renewal, especially around the landscape design element of it and the Play Spaces Network Plan.