# Preface: Our Whakapapa / History

1. **What our Constitution says right now**

This is a new section of the Constitution.

1. **Why it’s important and our proposed approach**

This section will outline the story of how Disabled Persons’ Assembly (the Assembly) was founded and some key milestones along the way.

The Preface will outline:

* When the Assembly was founded
* Why it was founded
* Its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
* Address anything that is important to acknowledge in its history

1. **What the proposed Constitution will say**
2. The Assembly was founded in 1983 to bring disabled people together to address disability issues. The Assembly is a not-for-profit charitable pan-impairment organisation run by and for disabled people.
3. We recognise:
   1. Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as an important part of the constitutional framework of Aotearoa New Zealand;
   2. disabled people as experts on their own lives;
   3. 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;
   4. 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;
   5. the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
   6. 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) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.
4. As a charitable entity, we work for the benefit of disabled people no matter their lived-experience or impairment.
5. **What the proposed Constitution will say**

**Registered Office:** The proposed Constitution will state that the Registered Office will be determined by the NEC and the NEC will notify the Registrar of any changes as soon as they are made in accordance with the Act.