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To Auckland Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Area Plans Review for Māngere and surrounding neighbourhoods

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

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**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 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

**The submission**

DPA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Māngere and surrounding neighbourhoods’ area plans. We support the emphasis on the four key themes of climate change/resilience/sustainability, children and young people, connectedness and Pasifika community, and Māori identity and wellbeing.

We would like to highlight the intersectionality between Māori and Pasifika and disability. Statistics New Zealand Disability Survey data, taken since 2006, have shown that the number of disabled Māori and Pasifika people is significantly higher that of non-Māori and non-Pasifika disabled people.[[1]](#footnote-1) Therefore, in the  Māngere area and surrounding suburbs there is a substantial population of disabled people whose needs are not currently being fully met by Council and other Crown and community stakeholders.

We have made several general recommendations (and some specific) around the area plans. These recommendations are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCRPD] [see below] and Te Triti O Waitangi so that they are both realised within the Māngere, Ōtāhuhu and Papatoetoe areas.

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

The UNCRPD Articles most relevant to our submission are:

* Article 4.3 Involving disabled people and our organisations in decisions that affect us
* Article 9 Accessibility
* Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community
* Article 20: Personal mobility
* Article 29: Participation in Political and Public life
* Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026:

* Outcome 5: Accessibility

**DPA’s recommendations**

**Recommendation 1:** DPA recommends that accessibility be a core part of the public transport network in the Māngere - Ōtāhuhu communities given the high number of disabled people who live in the area. All new public transport (including buses, shuttle services and park and ride share programmes) must be fully accessible to everyone, including disabled people and be co-designed in partnership with the disability community in these suburbs. This will ensure greater community connection and inclusion for everyone in the area.

**Recommendation 2:** DPA recommends that all new physical infrastructure be it buildings, parks, playgrounds, community facilities (e.g., swimming pools), amenities (e.g., public toilets and showers), climate change adaptations (e.g., riverbank and streambank elevations), train stations, bus terminals and community centres be designed and built according to universal design standards with the full involvement of disabled people alongside local community boards and Council in full co-design processes.

**Recommendation 3:** DPA recommends that any housing built in the Māngere- Ōtāhuhu community (and elsewhere in Tāmaki Makaurau) be designed and built according to universal design standards while also considering the cultural, environmental, social, and economic needs of the community. Building housing according to these standards will ensure that more housing will be accessible, particularly for disabled people and their families who are feeling the sharp end of the current housing crisis, which is especially severe for Māori and Pasifika disabled people. Both Council and Māori and Pasifika housing providers and partnerships should build all their new housing to these standards. Council should reach out to Lifemark Design[[2]](#footnote-2) which is Aotearoa’s only accredited universal design standards company for more information.

**Recommendation 4:** DPA recommends that all proposed projects in the area be subjected to a full accessibility audit during the co-design process and that this involves the employment of disabled people to undertake this and report back to the Council and community boards.

**Recommendation 5:** DPA recommends that all economic and business development programmes undertaken in the Māngere - Ōtāhuhu community include as a priority the needs of local Māori and Pasifika disabled people and disabled people in general. Māori and Pasifika disabled are multiply disadvantaged in employment, income, and economic participation[[3]](#footnote-3). Disabled people should be involved in the process of co-designing and leading programmes which promote employment and self-employment options with support from Council, Māori and Pasifika organisations and central government.

**Recommendation 6:** DPA recommends that the needs of disabled migrant, refugee, and ethnic communities in the Māngere - Ōtāhuhu community also be accounted for given the comparatively high populations of these groups who reside in the area. There are a signficant number of disabled refugees who come to Aotearoa every year. Therefore, Council, the community board and central government should support targeted programmes which promote the successful re-settlement of disabled refugees from the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre both within the area and throughout the Auckland region.

**Recommendation 7:** DPA recommends that Council fully engage with the disability community of Māngere - Ōtāhuhu when co-designing all infrastructure, policies, and programmes. We note that there are plans to involve more children and young people in decision making around the future of the community and we strongly urge that this explicitly provides for the full inclusion of disabled tamariki and rangatahi in any decision making, especially those relating to the environmental, social, economic, and cultural future of the area.

**Conclusion**

DPA welcomes this plan as one that will helpfully drive the Māngere - Ōtāhuhu community’s sustainable development over the next decades. As the area faces up to the challenges of bridging the issues created by greater social and economic inequity, climate change and demographic change, our ardent desire is that the voices of disabled people in the area are heard in all decisions which impact on it. DPA, through our Regional Policy Advisor and Policy Team, are available to facilitate any dialogue and distribute any information to DPA local members in the area around this plan. Our Regional Policy Advisor’s contact details are on the cover page of this submission and he can be reached out to for this purpose.

1. [Disability survey: 2013 | Stats NZ](https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/disability-survey-2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Home | Lifemark](https://www.lifemark.co.nz/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Disability | Stats NZ](https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/disability) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)