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To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Draft Naming Policy

For any further inquiries, please contact:

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**Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**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.

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),1 a foundational document for disabled people which New Zealand has signed and ratified, confirming that disabled people must have the same human rights as everyone else. All state bodies in New Zealand, including local and regional government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of this convention. There are a number of UNCRPD articles particularly relevant to this submission, including:

* **Article 3 – General principles**
* **Article 9 – Accessibility**
* **Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community**

**New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026**

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy2 to guide the work of government agencies on disability issues. The vision is that New Zealand be a non-disabling society, where disabled people have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and that all of New Zealand works together to make this happen. It identifies eight outcome areas contributing to achieving this vision. There are a number of Strategy outcomes particularly relevant to this submission, including:

* **Outcome 5 – Accessibility**
* **Outcome 8 - Leadership**

# The Submission

DPA welcomes the opportunity to feedback on the Christchurch City Council’s Draft Naming Policy.

We agree with all the key recommended changes outlined in the policy.

In this brief submission, we recommend that the contributions of prominent deceased disabled people in Christchurch be recognised through being included in street, building and park/reserve names.

We already appreciate and applaud the example of the CCC naming one of its new recreational and sporting facilities the Graham Condon Recreation and Sport Centre after the late disabled Paralympian and city councillor.

Other deceased disabled people who should now be honoured as well (if they have not already been) include the late former mayoress of the city, disability advocate and one of the founders of DPA, Alexia Pickering.

The naming of parks, facilities and streets after them and other prominent disabled people would continue to send a signal to disabled people themselves that our leadership, both within the disabled and wider communities is important, and to non-disabled people that disabled people have made contributions to the life of the city in the past and will continue to do so.

DPA has two brief recommendations.

The first is that the CCC approaches community organisations representing key demographics including Māori, Pasifika, disabled, ethnic community, rainbow community, and women on a regular basis to nominate prominent past Christchurch people for inclusion on the naming lists for new streets, reserves, buildings and parks that council has control over.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the CCC approach community organisations representing key population groups including disabled people for them to nominate prominent people from within their communities for inclusion on Council naming lists. |

DPA believes that this should continue to be done on the proviso that the family/whānau of the person being nominated for a naming honour give their consent to this occurring in each case.

The second is that the Council consider the placement of signage on any newly named street, road, reserve or other facility briefly explaining the background to the naming of that facility, place or road and that information about the origins of named places and facilities also be placed on the CCC website for future historical reference.

This will enable people to better understand the origins of any place or feature named by Council so that this is explained to both current and future generations, including where this pertains to prominent disabled people.

If a place name remembers an important historical individual, family or whānau, then the significance of why that place was named after that person, family or whānau can be better explained to both their descendants and residents as well.

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the CCC consider installing small brief informative signage on any facility, reserve, park, road or street that is named by it and that this information is also made available online. |