March 2023

To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the Queenspark Playground Upgrade

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Contact:

## Chris Ford

Regional Policy Advisor

Email: chris.ford@dpa.org.nz

Ingrid Robertson

Kaituitui – Christchurch Region

Email: Christchurch@dpa.org.nz

**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.

**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**

**Introduction**

DPA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Queenspark Reserve Playground upgrade. We would like to see all Christchurch playgrounds transition towards being built on universal design principles and with all equipment being fully accessible and inclusive to everyone, including disabled children and young people.

DPA notes that much of the proposed playground equipment to be placed at Queenspark appears to be inaccessible for many disabled children. We hope that this can be rectified to make it fully accessible and inclusive for everyone.

DPA recommends that inclusive play equipment be installed in the new Queenspark Playground to give every child the opportunity to participate in play. This should be achieved through installing equipment, which is universally designed, inclusive and usable with features including sufficient width, space and elevation, enabling the parents/caregivers/support people of disabled children the ability to navigate and play with equipment easily.

The accessible playground built by the CCC in Halswell Domain provides a great example of what could be done in the new Queenspark Playground.

DPA also recommends that further engagement is undertaken with disabled people and Disabled People’s Organisations [DPOs] around this re-development.

**Ways to improve Queenspark**

DPA recommends that neither woodchip or bark surfaces be used in the proposed nature playground section as this presents an accessibility issue for wheelchair and mobility aid users. We would like to see alternative safety surfaces used on the nature playground instead which would enable all people to access it, including disabled adults and children.

DPA recommends that a path be placed around the playground to provide access for everyone including wheelchair users, people using mobility aids, and children’s pushchairs. Also, tactile strips should be placed around the pathway to enable safe, accessible navigation by blind and low vision people.

DPA recommends the placement of wheelchair user friendly water drinking fountain in the park.

DPA recommends that picnic areas include tables which have open spaces so that both wheelchair and mobility aid users can access them.

DPA recommends trees are pruned to allow cover for people to sit in the shade, especially during the warmer months.

DPA recommends that, if there are currently no mobility parking spaces or pick up/drop off points near the playground that at least one be created.

**Recommendations Summary**

**Recommendation 1:** that inclusive play equipment be installed in the new Queenspark Playground to give every child the opportunity to participate in play.

**Recommendation 2:** that neither woodchip or bark surfaces be used in the proposed nature playground section as this presents an accessibility issue for wheelchair and mobility aid users.

**Recommendation 3:** that a path be placed around the playground to provide access for everyone including wheelchair users, people using mobility aids, and children’s pushchairs. Also, tactile strips should be placed around the pathway to enable safe, accessible navigation by blind and low vision people.

**Recommendation 4:** that a wheelchair user friendly water drinking fountain be placed in the park.

**Recommendation 5:** that picnic areas include tables which have open spaces so that both wheelchair and mobility aid users can access them.

**Recommendation 6:** that trees are pruned to allow cover for people to sit in the shade, especially during the warmer months.

**Recommendation 7:** that at least one mobility parking space or pick up/drop off points be sited near the playground.