April 2023

To Christchurch City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the Westburn play space and learn to ride renewal.

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.

**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 welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Westburn play space and learn to ride renewal. We would like to see all Christchurch playground and spaces 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.

**Need for universally designed accessible play equipment**

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|  DPA recommends that inclusive play equipment be installed to give every child the opportunity to participate in play. |

This can 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 Westburn play space.

Overall, we support the concept of having learn-to-ride tracks to encourage children - including disabled children - who use bicycles to engage in safe cycling behaviour, a skill once embedded which will be with them for life.

**More accessible places and spaces needed in the park**

DPA recommends that seating be placed at strategic points along the learn to ride track at different heights (either higher or lower) and should include armrests so that people with mobility impairments, children and older people can easily get in or out of the seats. This will enable parents/whanau to be included in their children’s activities.

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| DPA recommends the following:* that accessible toilets are installed when the new toilets are put in place.
* the placement of a wheelchair user friendly water drinking fountain in the park.
* that picnic areas include tables which have open spaces so that both wheelchair and mobility aid users can access them.
* trees are pruned to allow cover for people to sit in the shade, especially during the warmer months.
* that if there are no mobility parking spaces or pick up/drop off points near the playground that at least one be created.
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