October 2022

To The Dunedin City Council

Please find attached our submission on the Proposed Dunedin Destination Playground

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

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# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly

**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/$file/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 is providing this submission for the benefit of the Dunedin City Council in its deliberations over whether to build a Destination Playground (or playgrounds) in Dunedin.

DPA supports the idea of building a destination playground or playgrounds in the city. We do not have a preference whether this is in the form of a single destination playground (as is the case with the Margaret Mahy Playground in Christchurch) or as to whether a number of these should be located around the city.

DPA recommends that any destination playgrounds be built to universal design accessibility standards and provide play equipment and other features, for example, water play, which can be enjoyed by everyone, including disabled children and adults.

DPA recommends that, during the next phase of consultation on destination playgrounds, that we, alongside the Access for All Dunedin Group (comprised of disabled people, disabled people’s organisations and service provider representatives) and the City Council’s Disability Issues Advisory Group be involved as co-design partners in this project, should it be given the go-ahead by Council.

# DPA’s recommendations

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

* **Recommendation 1:** That any destination playgrounds be built to universal design accessibility standards and provide play equipment and other features which can be enjoyed by everyone, including disabled children and adults.
* **Recommendation 2:** That during the next phase of consultations on destination playgrounds, that DPA alongside the Access for All Dunedin Group and the City Council’s Disability Issues Advisory Group be involved as co-design partners in this project.