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To Christchurch City Council

Please find our submission for the Sabina Playground Renewal

## Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

## **Chris Ford**

**Regional Policy Advisor**

**Email:** [**chris.ford@dpa.org.nz**](mailto:chris.ford@dpa.org.nz)

**027 696 0872**

## **Ingrid Robertson**

## **Kaituitui**

## **Email:** [**christchurch@dpa.org.nz**](mailto:christchurch@dpa.org.nz)

## **027 238 5820**

# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-disability 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 to 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 Sabina Playground Renewal. DPA is pleased to see there is a choice of play equipment offered. The Lunar Spinning climbing net and Option 1 under Choose your favourite sliding / cubby option will ensure disabled children are able to participate in the play area with other children.

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

**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 5: Equality and non-discrimination
* Article 7: Children with disabilities
* Article 9: Accessibility

The New Zealand Government policies and strategies which are relevant to this submission are as follows:

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026:

* Outcome 5 - Accessibility

# DPA’s recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** DPA recommends that seating be placed around the playground of varying 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 play area.

**Recommendation 2**: DPA recommends trees be planted so there will be shaded areas especially in the summer.

**Recommendation 3:** DPA recommends that the new path from the street to the playground should provide for universal accessibility, and this includes for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, mobility aids, children’s pushchairs, as well as blind and low vision people.

**Recommendation 4:** DPA recommends the placement of a wheelchair user friendly water drinking fountain in the playground.

# Conclusion

DPA Christchurch would like to be involved in further discussions around the Sabina Playground Renewal. We believe that everything should be done to ensure accessibility for everyone, including the disabled communities of Ōtautahi and Aotearoa, who will visit and enjoy this playground. Our Christchurch Kaituitui and/or Regional Policy Advisor is available for this purpose and can be contacted [please see details on the front cover].