

June 2023

To Wellington City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Miramar Minor Safety Works

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Chris Ford

Regional Policy Advisor (Local Government)

Acting Kaituitui – Wellington Region

[policy@dpa.org.nz](mailto:policy@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/$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.

**United Nations 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 9: Accessibility**

**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**

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to engage on the Miramar minor safety works being proposed by the Wellington City Council.

DPA welcomes the fact that Council has acknowledged the public’s numerous concerns about the safety of the Townsend-Otaki and Athens Street intersection and its plans to undertake the works to address these concerns.

This brief submission will make several recommendations from a disability perspective on how these works can be further enhanced to make the area safe for everyone, including disabled people.

**Need for raised pedestrian crossing**

DPA believes that there is a need for raised pedestrian crossings at both the realigned pedestrian crossing on Athens Street and at the new one on Otaki Street to ensure that all pedestrians are visible to oncoming traffic.

These crossings should be well lit to ensure that oncoming traffic can see pedestrians, particularly at night.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the WCC install raised pedestrian crossings at both the existing Athens Street crossing and the new Otaki Street one. |

DPA would also like to see that both the Athens and Otaki Street pedestrian crossings are also audio signalled for the benefit of blind and low vision people as well as people who use service dogs.

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the WCC install an audio signal system on both the Otaki and Athens Street pedestrian crossings. |

DPA would like to ask that Council involve disabled people and our organisations and other relevant stakeholders in discussions around pedestrian safety, particularly in communities where similar road safety issues have been identified.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that the WCC conduct conversations with disabled people and our organisations and other stakeholders in communities where similar road safety issues have arisen. |