January 2023

To Wellington City Council

# Please find attached our submission on the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā play area renewal

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 Wellington City Council in its consideration of the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā play area renewal.

DPA supports the renewal of the playground and finds there is much to commend in the proposed changes from a disability perspective. We are very pleased to see inclusive features added including a high-backed swing, sensory board, communication board and in-ground trampoline, all equipment which can be used by everyone, including disabled children.

DPA recommends the addition of more inclusive play equipment to ensure that disabled children can have more complementary, accessible play options available given that not all the play equipment can be independently accessed, for example, by children using wheelchairs or mobility equipment.

DPA recommends the placement of tactile strips which would enable both blind and low vision adults and children the ability to navigate more easily around the playground.

DPA recommends that any future focus groups on playground projects involve disabled children/tamariki and family/whanau representatives of disabled children so that feedback is acquired on how to make all playgrounds inclusive and accessible places going forward.

**DPA’s recommendations**

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

**Recommendation 1:** the addition of more inclusive play equipment to ensure that disabled children can have more complementary, accessible play options available.

**Recommendation 2:** the placement of tactile strips to enable blind and low vision adults and children to navigate more easily around the playground.

**Recommendation 3:** that future focus groups on playground projects involve disabled children/tamariki and family/whanau representatives of disabled children for feedback on making all playgrounds inclusive and accessible places going forward.