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To Tertiary Education Council (WDCs@tec.govt.nz)

Please find attached DPA’s submission on the establishment of Workforce Development Councils.

## Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

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# 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 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 is providing a submission on the development of the Orders in Council (OiC) for the six Workforce Development Councils (WDC). While we are aware that there are six individual calls for feedback, we are submitting generic feedback to apply to all six OiC.

DPA welcomes the setting up of WDCs and in particular the statement from the Minister that they must better engage underrepresented communities including Maori, Pasifika and disabled people.

Given the poor statistics of participation of disabled people in the workforce [[1]](#endnote-1), it is particularly important that the WDCs connect with the disability community.

# DPA’s recommendations

In order to achieve better engagement with these communities, the Disabled Person’s Assembly strongly recommends that each WDC’s OiC explicitly state that board members must have a commitment to inclusion, an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Governance arrangements must ensure that the views of disabled people, Maori and Pasifika can genuinely influence WDC direction.

We understand that the Interim Establishment Boards will set up selection panels to appoint members of WDC Boards. If the WDC Boards are to achieve better outcomes for underrepresented communities then the boards themselves need to include members from these communities.

To achieve that, it will be necessary for selection panels to proactively encourage people from previously underrepresented communities to stand for positions on WDC Boards and to use appropriate channels to ensure that skilled people from these communities find out about the positions and are able to apply for them.

The WDC Boards need to be properly resourced to ensure full inclusion for all board members, including providing for access needs of members.

The Disabled Person’s Assembly also recommends that OiC should specifically state how each WDC will meet their responsibilities under Te Tiriti and the UNCRPD.

DPA wishes to be kept informed of each stage of the process to set up WDCs.

1. <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-disability-june-2020-quarter#:~:text=In%20the%20year%20to%20the,the%20series%20began%20in%202017&text=the%20labour%20force%20participation%20rate,percent%20for%20non%2Ddisabled%20people> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)