DPA Constitution Survey #1 – Membership,   
Disputes Resolution, and Engagement

# Email to members via Survey Monkey

Kia ora koutou,

**DPA invites you to take part in a survey that marks the beginning of a review and update of DPA’s constitution.**   
  
This is the first of a number of surveys about our Constitution. Your voice is essential in helping us ensure that our constitution reflects the needs and values of our community.

**Why your feedback matters:**  
Your responses will play a key role in shaping decisions about membership categories, regional committees, rights and responsibilities, and how we can better engage members like you. This is your opportunity to directly influence how DPA evolves and strengthens its constitution to ensure we are best supporting and representing our members.

**The survey:**  
The first survey focuses on **membership**. If Survey Monkey is not accessible to you, you can download a Word Document version here. Please note, this survey is for members only. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas to make sure we’re on the right track in representing our diverse and vibrant community.

**Deadline:**  
Please complete the survey by Friday 16 May, 5pm.

Your participation and engagement throughout this process will help us create a constitution that best serves the needs of our organisation and our membership.

If you have any questions or need assistance, email: [info@dpa.org.nz](mailto:info@dpa.org.nz) .

Aku mihi,

Disabled Person’s Assembly

Survey Information  
  
This survey is the first of three surveys to help us review and update our constitution. The first survey is focused on **membership, membership engagement and dispute resolution.**

Your feedback is essential in ensuring that the constitution reflects the needs and voices of our community.

It will help shape important decisions about:

* membership categories
* regional committees
* rights and responsibilities
* and how members can be better involved.

Together, we can ensure that the constitution aligns with the values and needs of all DPA members.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with this survey, please email: [info@dpa.org.nz](mailto:info@dpa.org.nz)

# The Survey

## Section 1: Members and how they engage

We’d like to understand how you connect with DPA and what helps you feel involved. Your feedback will guide how we support and engage with members.

### **Question one:** How long have you been a member of DPA?

### **Question two:** What type of membership do you currently hold?

* Individual - voting member
* Family - voting member
* Life - voting member
* Organisations of disabled people - voting member
* Organisations for disabled people - (Associate) nonvoting member
* Individual/Family (Associate) - nonvoting member
* I do not know

### **Question three:** How are you most likely to engage with DPA? (Select all that apply)

* I attend local or regional meetings
* I participate in national forums or hui
* I receive and read email newsletters
* I read, share or respond to social media posts
* I volunteer or support DPA activities
* I am a current or past member of the National Executive Committee or a Regional Executive Committee
* I do not currently engage much
* Other (please specify):

### **Question four:** Regional Executive Committees and Assembly

Regional Executive Committees / Regional Assemblies have been an important part of Disabled Persons Assembly and have at times been the primary way members have engaged with the Assembly. What do you want to see in the future of DPA and how it engages its members:

* Regional meetings and engagements
* Online hui
* Consultation on policy position development
* Other: (open text)

### **Question five:** Do you think that members should be required to agree to uphold DPA’s values and purpose as a condition of membership?

* Yes
* No
* Not sure
* Please share your thoughts: (open text)

### **Question six:** Do you have any feedback about your membership experience with DPA, or how we can better support and engage with our members? (limit 150 words)

## Section 2 - Membership rights and responsibilities

DPA is guided by its members. In this section, we’re asking for your views on what rights and responsibilities members should have, to help build a stronger, more inclusive organisation.

### **Question One:** What do you believe are the keyrights that DPA members should have? (select all that apply)

* The right to vote at general meetings
* The right to access reports and financials
* The right to propose motions or constitutional changes
* The right to appeal a decision made by the board or committee
* The right to be treated respectfully and equitably
* Other (please specify):

### **Question two:** What responsibilities should members have? (Select all that apply)

* Supporting DPA’s values and purpose
* Respecting other members and staff
* Participating in democratic processes (e.g. voting)
* Upholding DPA’s rules in the Constitution including any expected behaviours
* Paying a membership fee (if required)
* Other (please specify):

### **Question three:** Please share any thoughts you have about the responsibilities of DPA members, including anything you think should be added or clarified. (open text)

## Section 3 - Membership types and fees

DPA currently has the following types of memberships:

* **Individual membership:** Any person with an impairment may apply to become an Individual member of the Assembly. Individual members are voting members
* **Family membership:** Any member of a family with a child with an impairment under 18 years of age may apply to become a Family member of the Assembly. Family members are voting members.
* **Life member:** a life member is someone who has served the Assembly in an extraordinary way. Life members are nominated by the NEC and voted for by the Assembly.
* **Organisations of disabled people** - An eligible organisation is an incorporated or unincorporated body that is a non-profit, charitable or welfare organisation; and has objects similar to the objects of the Assembly or works in any way for the benefit of people with disabilities; and is governed by a board the majority of whom are people with disabilities or are directly accountable to people with disabilities.
* **Organisations for disabled people (Associate)** - An eligible organisation is an incorporated or unincorporated body that provides services specific to people with disabilities or provides services to the general population including people with disabilities
* **Individual/Family (Associate)** -Is any person, or family, who is interested in the work and activities of the Assembly may apply to become and Associate member of the Assembly

### **Question one:** Are these the right types of membership?

* Yes, the current structure works
* No, it needs to be simplified or changed
* Not sure
* Please suggest changes or additions:

### **Question two:** Membership fees

At the moment, individual and family members do not pay a membership fee, but organisational members do. DPA is looking at the option to charge a membership fee for all members. This will help fund parts of DPA’s work and ensure members are able to participate in what DPA does. However, we also do not want this to exclude people from becoming a member.

### Would you be open to paying a membership fee?

Yes  
No

### **Question three:** What level of fee would you be open to paying for your membership?

* $0 - $50
* $51 - $100
* $101 - $200
* $200 +

### **Question Four:** Do you have any further feedback you’d like to share with us on membership types and fees? (open text)

## Section 4 - Membership process and approval

We want your feedback on how people join DPA, so we can make sure the process is clear, fair, and inclusive.

### **Question one:** Currently, membership is approved by the National Executive Committee, which can take up to 1–3 months. Do you feel this is:

* Acceptable
* Too long, there should be a faster or automatic process
* Too short, there should be more vetting
* Not sure
* Please provide any suggestions: (open text)

### **Question two:** Should there be a “stand down” or waiting period before a new member becomes eligible to vote?

* Yes, new members should wait a set period (for example, 1 to 3 months)
* No, rights should begin immediately after joining
* Not sure
* If you have any, please share your thoughts (open text)

## Section 5 - Dispute resolution process

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 requires all societies to include a formal Dispute Resolution process in their constitution.

### **Question One:** Do you support DPA developing a disputes resolution process that:

* Meets the legal requirements of the Act
* Reflects our values and purpose
* Includes the option to follow a tikanga-based approach, which uses Māori based values and processes to resolve any disputes?  
  + Yes, I support this direction
  + Yes, but I would like to understand more about how tikanga would be included
  + No, I have concerns about this approach
  + Not sure

### **Question two:** Do you have any further feedback or comments on how we could best implement the Dispute Resolutions process? (open text)

## Section 5 - Proxy voting

Proxy voting allows members to appoint someone else to vote on their behalf at meetings. Your feedback will help us ensure the process is fair, accessible, and meets our members' needs.

### **Question One:** Under the current constitution members can appoint a proxy (in writing) to vote on their behalf for a specific meeting or a specified term. Do you think:

* Proxy voting should only be for a specific meeting
* Members should be able to appoint an ongoing proxy
* Proxy voting should be limited to certain circumstances (e.g. enduring power of attorney)
* I’m not sure
* Do you have any feedback on proxy voting: (open text)

### **Question two:** Should family members or others with enduring power of attorney be allowed to appoint a proxy on behalf of a member for meetings?

* Yes
* No
* Other: (please specify)

## Section 7 - Any other feedback

Do you have any other feedback you’d like us to consider about membership?

Do you have any other feedback you’d like us to consider about membership engagement?

Do you have any other feedback you’d like us to consider when implementing the disputes resolution process?