#

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ
Questions about Community and Interest Groups

# What are Community and Interest Groups?

Community and Interest groups are member-led groups established by members to organise on a particular community or interest. NEC will set rules around the establishment and operations of these groups.

But at a minimum it is envisaged that any member will be able to initiate a community interest group and set guidelines or tikanga (ways of working together) based on the group's members.

A group should consist of at least 5 DPA members as founding the group, and overall have a majority of DPA members participating, to be endorsed as a community and interest group of the DPA.

To establish a group it will need to be registered with the National Office. The NEC will receive the application to review in due course, however, the team at National Office will be delegated the responsibility to ensure the group being established meets the requirements set by the NEC.

# Why are these being proposed?

These are being proposed as an way for members to self-organise on issues they care about without the legal responsibility of taking on a Regional Executive Committee position.

# What about Regional Executive Committees?

In the draft constitution it is proposed that Regional Executive Committees be disestablished.

These groups have been a foundational part of DPAs history, however, under the new legislation, it is even more important that we have robust accountabilities and clear lines of accountability.

Through the constitution review we heard that members want a simple and more flexible way to engage on important issues in the disability community. More than 70% of those who engaged in the constitution review programme supported a less formal approach.

# How would these groups work?

Community and Interest Groups would be established by 5 or more members. They can form these based on a policy or other area of interest that aligns with the vision, purpose or strategy of DPA; or based on region or community.

They would be self-organising but can request support from the National Office to access support, funding and advice. Groups can also engage directly with the NEC through their meetings by requesting time on the NEC meeting agenda.

All groups would also be able to use constitutional arrangements to organise as a group, for example requesting an SGM be called to consider a matter.

# Who can establish them?

Any member can instigate a process to establish a Community and Interest Group. However, a group will need a minimum of 5 members of DPA to form.