

**NOTES OF THE  
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL  
53 HEREFORD STREET, Ground Floor, Meeting Room 1, Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 10:00 am**

**Present:** Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB), Rachel Mullins (CCC Inclusive Communities), Philippa Cosgrove, Gail Payne (CCC) Paul Barclay, Debra Edmonds, Pat Edmonds, Simon Templeton, Gaye Austin, Debbie Baker, Adele Wilkinson, Anna Mitchell, Shane McInore  
**Guests:** Sonali Chandratilake, Nicola Sprung

**Apologies:** Dayl Milne

**Facilitator:** Gail Payne

**Previous Notes, Matters Arising:**

As the group is now larger, meetings in 2018 will be held in the Function Room on Level 1.

Recently, Council staff involved in Tuuranga, the new Central Library, met with staff at the Blind Foundation. Advice was provided. Comments have also been provided on the furniture selected for the new library. The importance of accessibility as a priority at all project stages, e.g. commissioning, procurement, design and build, were again highlighted. Noting that early Tuuranga library plans had been accessibility audited; and technical and lived experience review at all stages are necessary to obtain the best results.

Action: The Library staff will return to DAG in the New Year.

Council staff training about disability awareness is being considered, and the challenges were discussed. There will be different training needs for different roles, challenges in finding time, linking into human resources processes, the use of video training, and wider support for staff. In people's experience, the best disability awareness training reaches people's hearts and minds, is engaging, and is based on lived experience. A possible role for MHERC may be considered. DAG is committed to being part of CCC staff training in 2018, by providing a lived experience perspective.

**The Accessibility Charter**

The Council endorsed the Accessibility Charter, following adoption by Executive Leadership Team. A successful launch event was held on 3 November. The Council is working on formalising its multi-unit accessibility staff steering group, and making its charter implementation plan.

Action: The Council multi-unit group will come to DAG in 2018.

### **Civil Defence Emergency Management Tsunami planning**

The Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) has met with the DAG to look at community tsunami planning with a particular focus on disability. It forms part of the wider project of tsunami preparedness in Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula. Working with the disability sector, CDEM aims to increase personal tsunami preparedness by understanding the needs of the disability community, especially for those living in the tsunami evacuation zones. Ongoing goals include understanding the wider tsunami risk in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula and working with community organisations who are connected to people living with complex individual circumstances.

Action: To attend meetings next year on tsunami preparedness.

### **Hei Whakapiki Mauri**

DAG agreed it would be good to link to, and support, this initiative for Maori living with disability. Ruth Jones and Gary Williams will be contacted to discuss this.

### **International day for people with disabilities**

DAG members will circulate information about the 2 December 'Celebrate Us' concert event.

### **Parks Accessibility Audit Tool**

Wellington based researchers have developed a tool and published an article that could be very helpful for Christchurch designers. Allison will make further contact with the researcher and circulate the information to DAG and to the relevant Council staff. It may be possible for the researcher to come to Christchurch next year to talk about her research.

### **Heritage Strategy**

It was agreed that Allison would contact the Council staff developing the Heritage Strategy to discuss the inclusion of accessibility as a priority, especially given the Council's signing of the Accessibility Charter.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 December 2017 at 10:00 am at Burwood Hospital.** Year review and planning for 2018, then Spinal Trust and Burwood Academy of Independent Living staff invited to mingle. Possible January barbeque to be considered.