

Disability Advisory Panel Achievements 2016 to 2019



Before you start

This is a long document.



While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone help you to understand it.

What you will find in here

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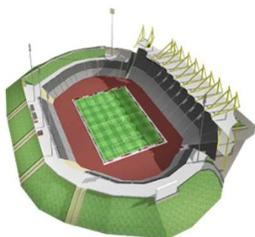
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What is the Disability Advisory Panel?



The job of the Disability Advisory Panel is to:

- find out the things that are important to disabled people
- give Auckland Council advice on the things they do
- help Auckland Council work with disabled people.

Our panel has worked together for almost 3 years.



Soon a new panel will take over.

This document is about:



- what the Disability Advisory Panel has done in the last 3 years
- our advice to the new panel.



The people on the Disability Advisory Panel bring what they know about living with a disability in Auckland

Who was part of the panel?



The panel started with 8 people:

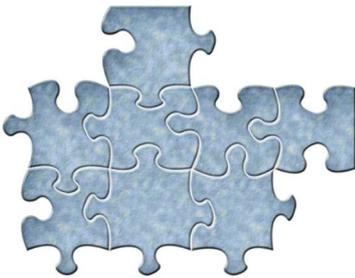
- Colleen Brown
- Dan Buckingham
- Jade Farrar
- Philip Patston
- Rachel Peterson
- Mary Schnackenberg
- Gemma Stewart
- Ursula Thynne.

3 people chose to leave the panel before the 3 years had ended:



- Colleen Brown
- Philip Patston
- Gemma Stewart.

When these people left it meant that the panel:



- found it harder to fit together as well
- did not have as many experiences of different disabilities to share.





Kramer Hoeflich from the Youth Advisory Panel joined the panel part way through the term.



Philip Patston was the panel's first **Chair**.



Mary Schnackenberg became **Chair** in September 2018.



Dan Buckingham was the **Deputy Chair** for all of the term.



The **Chair** is the person who leads the panel.

The **Deputy Chair** helps the chair lead the panel.



The panel was supported by **Liaison Councillor** Josephine Bartley.



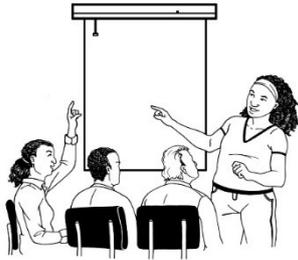
Liaison Councillor means someone who is a link between:

- the panel
- the Auckland Council.

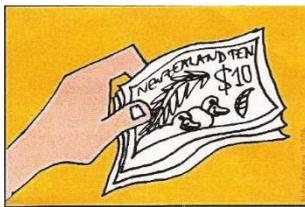
Talks by council staff to the panel



People who work at the Auckland Council gave talks to the panel.



This helped us understand the work the council is doing.



Sometimes the council cannot do everything the panel wants because they do not have enough **resources**.



Resources are things like:

- money
- buildings
- staff.



We use resources to get things done.



We were happy to see staff coming back to us to:

- see how work was going
- learn more
- be cheered on.



Disability Operational Action Plan



The **Disability Operational Action Plan** was started by the 2013 to 2016 Disability Advisory Panel.



The plan is a list of things that needed to be done to make Auckland a better place for disabled people to live.



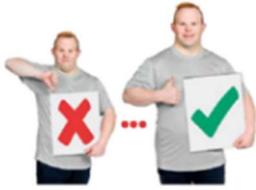
The plan started in December 2015.



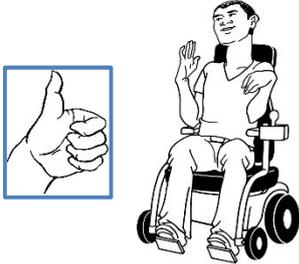
We have been checking to see how things in the plan have been going.



Council staff have sent us reports about things that have been happening



Council staff have also told us that some things have been going better.



We are happy to see that it is easier for people who use wheelchairs to go to some of Auckland's:



- swimming pools
- beaches.



A **new** Disability Operational Action Plan is being made.

The council's Diversity and Inclusion team is writing the new plan.

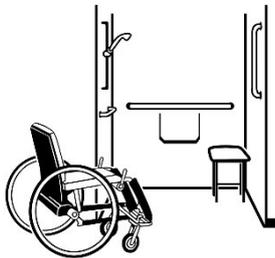


We are talking to them about what we think should be in the next plan.

Accessible housing

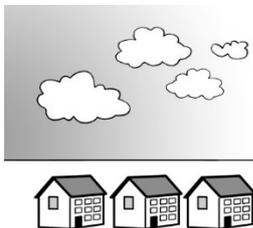


In March 2018 we talked to the council about there not being enough **accessible housing**.



Accessible housing is homes that are built in a way that disabled people can live in easily.

Accessible housing can also be homes that have been changed to make it easier for a disabled person to live in them.



We told the council that more needs to be done so there is **more** accessible housing in Auckland.



Some of the things we told them were:



1. The council should give **consents** faster to people who build accessible housing.

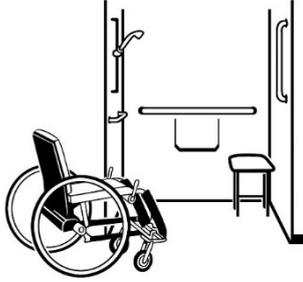


Consents are when the council says that you can:

- build
- change a building.



Everyone has to get consent from the council when they want to build a home.



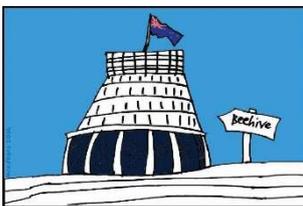
2. Council should charge people less in **rates** for homes that:

- have things that make them more accessible
- are changed to be more accessible.



Rates are a kind of tax that people pay if they own:

- buildings
- land.



We would also like the council to work more closely with the government about housing for disabled people.



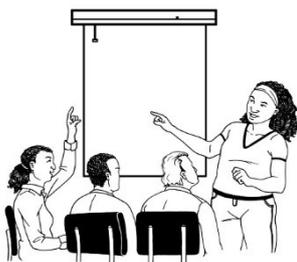
One of the issues is that rules say different things to each other.

This means some people do not get accessible social housing.

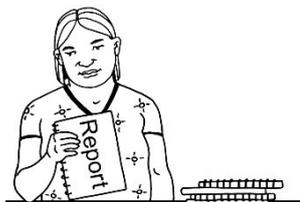


We think the council should say **accessible housing** every time housing is written in the:

- Auckland Plan
- Long Term Plan documents.



At our 4 October 2018 meeting we were given a talk by the Auckland Design Office.



We also recommended that Auckland Council add **Universal Design Standards** for housing to the **Unitary Plan**.



Universal Design Standards are a list of rules that set out how to build things so they are accessible for people with disabilities.



A **Unitary Plan** is a plan for where homes will be built in the years to come.

| | MON | TUES | WEDS | THURSD | FRID | SAT | SUN | | MON | TUES | WEDS | THURSD | FRID | SAT | SUN |
|----|------|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|----|------|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|
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| Ev | | | | | | | | Ev | | | | | | | |

After 2 years of the Unitary Plan it:

- will be looked at again
- may be changed.



We said that everyone should have better ways of accessing the council's Auckland Housing Programme.



We said that in Auckland there is not enough accessible:

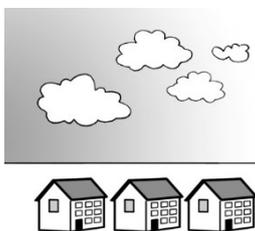
- rental housing
- affordable housing.



This is causing big problems for people.



We also said that the council should ask the government for easier access to the **Kiwibuild** programme.



Kiwibuild is the government building program where lots of home will be built in the next 10 years.



We also said that there will be more need for accessible housing in the future because there will be more older people.



In December 2018 the council wrote to the Minister for Building and Construction.



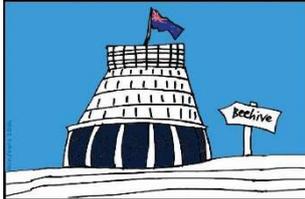
The letter said government should use **universal design** when new homes are built so that they are all accessible.



On 18 April 2019 council met with 3 government ministers to talk about how to best make accessible housing part of the law.



2 members of the panel were there.



The government ministers were:

- Phil Twyford
- Carmel Sepuloni
- Jenny Salesa.



On 16 May 2019 we met with the Community Development and Safety Committee about accessible housing.

People gave talks about:

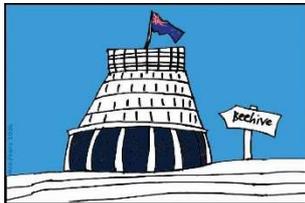
- big problems with the design of Hobsonville Point
- things that make it hard looking for an accessible home in Auckland
- **human rights** issues from the **UN Convention Committee**.



Human rights are rights everyone has.

The **UN Convention Committee** is a group from lots of countries that looks at human rights.

In June 2019 Auckland Council made a **submission** about changes to the **Building Act** which supported accessible housing.



An **act** is a kind of law.

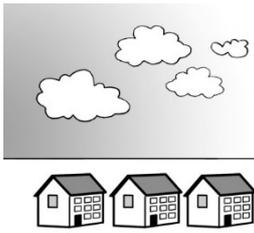
A **submission** is when someone says what they think about a law that might be made.

Parliament listens to what people think before they choose to make the law.

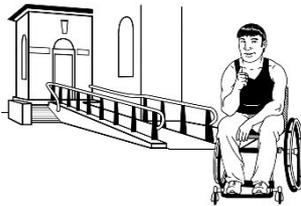


The Minister for Disability Issues Hon Carmel Sepuloni asked us to meet with her on 10 July 2019.

Sepuloni showed us she understood how big the problem is.



Just 1 out of every 50 homes in New Zealand are accessible.



Sepuloni told us the things the government is doing to make more new houses accessible.



On 29 July 2019 there was a meeting to talk about housing with different advisory panels and parts of the council.



We are pleased that council has shown they understand the problems with accessible housing.

Public transport



On 21 March 2018 we talked to the council about public transport.

We did this as part of our thoughts on the:



- 10 year council budget
- 30 year council plan.



There is a new tax on petrol in Auckland.

It is called the **Regional Fuel Tax**.

This tax means it is likely to cost more money to use:



- taxis
- other public transport.

We said Council should push for fair access to:



- money to help with transport
- mobility parking permits.



We had an update from Auckland Transport at our meeting on 4 October 2018.

This meeting was open to everyone.



We had a lot to say to Auckland Transport.

Other people had a lot to say as well.



A deafblind person talked about being treated badly by some train staff.



At our community forum on 13 October 2018 most of what people told us was about public transport not being good enough.

On 8 November 2018 Auckland Transport gave a talk to a meeting of:



- our panel
- other panels like ours
- leaders on the council.



We wanted to talk about the safety of disabled **pedestrians** because of the electric scooters that started being in Auckland in 2018.



Pedestrians are people who:

- walk
- use mobility devices like wheelchairs.



We talked about the safety of disabled pedestrians at our meeting on 18 March 2019.



This meeting was open to anyone who wanted to come.



We said that we know ways people can quickly move short amounts like e-scooters are being looked at by:

- Auckland Council
- Auckland Transport



We also know that Auckland Transport is doing things to stop vehicles like cars going so fast.

This makes things safer for everyone.



We recommended that Auckland Council works with Auckland Transport to make sure pedestrians are safe on:

- footpaths
- road crossings.



We want them to look most at safety for pedestrians who:

- have access needs
- may not be able to:
 - hear e-scooters moving around
 - see e-scooters left lying down on the footpaths.





We said that before Auckland Council make more choices about e-scooters they talk with:

- panels like ours
- the disability community in Auckland.



At our June 2019 meeting we had a talk by staff from:

- the council
- Auckland Transport.



We were pleased that council had used the things we told them when choosing how to do an e-scooter **trial**.



A **trial** is when they will have e-scooters for a short amount of time to see how things go.

The trial will finish in October 2019.

Community forums



We held a **community forum** on the North Shore in October 2018.



A **community forum** is a meeting where people from the community can:

- share ideas
- talk about things that
 - they want
 - are problems to them.



The forum went very well.



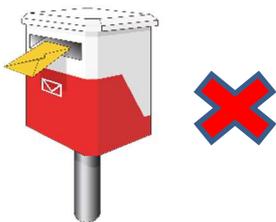
Some of the things people talked about were access to:

- public transport
- places run by the council like:
 - swimming pools
 - parks.



A report about the forum was written.

We did not have enough resources to send the report to:



- people who went to the forum
- other people in the community.

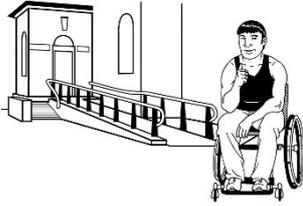


Another community forum was in South Auckland in July 2019.

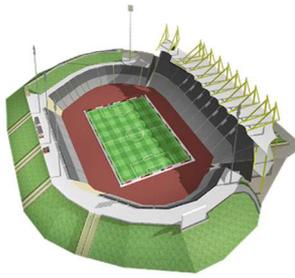


People at the forum talked about:

- public transport
- accessible housing
- looking for work.



Regional Facilities Auckland



Regional Facilities Auckland runs places like:

- stadiums
- museums
- Auckland Zoo.



Regional Facilities Auckland gave us two talks.



We talked about some ideas about how to make the places they run more inclusive like making places wheelchair friendly.

Voting



We support council staff who want to get more people voting in local elections.



We supported Auckland Council trying to start **online voting** in the 2019 local elections.



Online voting means you can vote from your own computer on the internet.



Online voting is important to disabled people because many find it hard to vote without support.



There was not enough money to try out online voting.



At the May 2019 meeting the council gave us a talk about how the council is working with different communities.



These communities included organisations for people who are:

- Deaf
- Blind
- vision impaired.





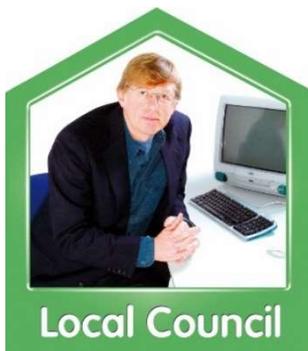
The panel were given ideas on ways to support people to **stand for**:

- council
- local boards.



To **stand for** council means you ask people to vote for you.

If you get enough votes you become a member of the council.



Local boards make choices for smaller parts of Auckland.

Other chances to give feedback



We told the council about what we think with some of the things they are working on like:

- Inclusive Auckland Framework



- Investing in Aucklanders

- Tākaro – Investing in Play



- Age Friendly Auckland



- Auckland Emergency Management plans / policies.



We have worked with the Seniors Panel to ask:



- City Rail Link to make an accessible way in to the Karangahape Road Station from Beresford Square.



- for the Auckland Town Hall lift in the Civic Carpark to be fixed faster.

Other good things that have been done

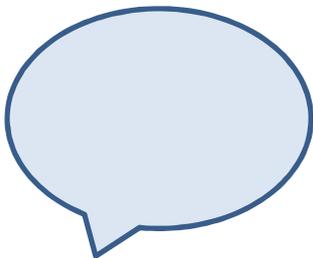


There are other good things that have happened which are not part of our work.



Auckland Live works to support events with:

- New Zealand Sign Language
- **audio description.**



Audio description means there is sound saying what is happening on stage for people who cannot see it.

The **Auckland Arts Festival** has made changes to make its events more accessible like:



- making tickets cost less
- letting people book by phone.

Auckland Live has supported them to make these changes.



In 2018 **Arts Access Aotearoa** gave the Auckland Arts Festival organisers their top award.

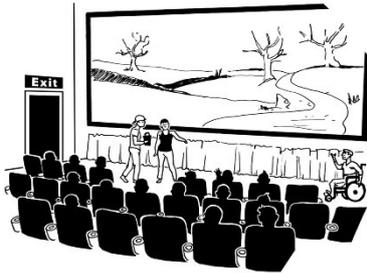


In 2019 the Auckland Arts Festival made the first performance with an audio description in te reo Māori happen.



The play with an audio description was:

- called The Kuia and the Spider
- written by Patricia Grace.



We are happy to see movies in parks having captions.

Advice for the new Disability Advisory Panel

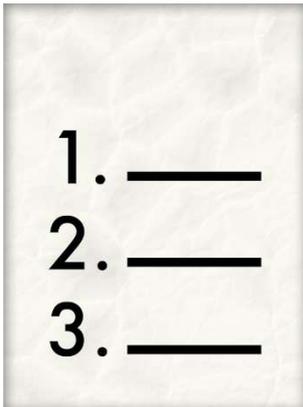


Start by making the plan of work you will do.

This is called the **work programme**.



The council will have to give the okay to your work programme.



At every meeting you should remember the work programme by talking about:

- how things in it are going
- what has been done.



Look at what things in the **Disability Operational Action Plan** are being done.



Give **advice** so things on the plan keep happening when planned.



Look for a way to show council staff that the things they do can **make things better for disabled people** in Auckland.



Look at what things **panels before you** worked on.



Choose which of those things you will **keep working on**.

Think about making links with **local boards**.



What local boards do is as important to disabled people in Auckland as what council does for regional activities.



Work with council to make sure you hear back when **things have been done**.

Talk to council about making **plans** to tell more people about:

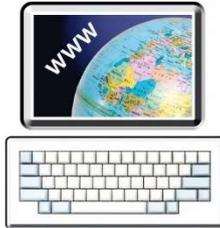


- the work the panel does
- what goes well.



It is important for you to plan:

- **community meetings**
- using the **internet** to talk to the disability community.



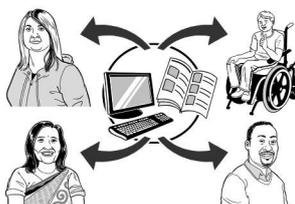
You should make sure you have:

- staff who can work on organising these
- other resources.



You should also choose:

- what you want to happen
- how you will tell the disability community about this.





Think about **access to information**.

It is important that everyone can read things council writes.

Some things that are not accessible are:



- rates bills
- water bills
- some surveys.



Help council find organisations that do things like **accessibility audits**.



Accessibility audits are when someone finds out:

- how accessible things are
- what can be done to make things more accessible.



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