



# CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY

Disability Reference Group Action Plan 2018-2020



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## Central Hawke's Bay District Council Vision Statement

Our vision for Central Hawke's Bay is a proud and prosperous district made up of strong communities and connected people who respect and protect our environment and celebrate our beautiful part of New Zealand.

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## Central Hawke's Bay District Council Disability Reference Group Vision Statement

Central Hawkes Bay is fully accessible for all people.

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### Background

While we know that a proportion of our community have some level of impairment, official statistics on this at a territorial authority level are difficult to find.

In 2013, 24 percent of the New Zealand population were identified as disabled, a total of 1.1 million people. Figures for the Gisborne/Hawke's Bay regions for 2013 show that 46,000 or 23% of the population live with a disability.

People aged 65 or over were much more likely to be disabled (59 percent) than adults under 65 years (21 percent) or children under 15 years (11 percent).

For adults, physical limitations were the most common type of impairment. Eighteen percent of people aged 15 or over, or 64 percent of disabled adults, were physically impaired. The most common cause of disability for adults was disease or illness (42 percent).

For children, learning difficulty was the most common impairment type. Six percent of children, or 52 percent of disabled children, had difficulty learning. For children, the most common cause of disability was a condition that existed at birth (49 percent).

Just over half of all disabled people (53 percent) had more than one type of impairment.

### What strategies guide this action plan?

New Zealand is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities and Council has used this document to guide this Action Plan.

In addition, Council also referred to the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2001 which guides government action and promotes a more inclusive society. The Strategy acknowledges that local authorities have a significant impact on the lives of disabled people by the decisions they make.

Disability Strategies from other territorial authorities were also used as a source of valuable information.

## What will Council do to ensure that central Hawke’s Bay is fully accessible for all people?

Central Hawke’s Bay District Council recognizes that it has an important role to play in enabling and supporting people with disabilities to fully participate in their community.

The Central Hawke’s Bay District Council undertakes to work in partnership with businesses, disability service providers, community groups and people living with a disability in the Central Hawke’s Bay community.

### What are the current issues for people with disabilities in Central Hawke’s Bay?

- Access and safety on public areas, walkways, pathways and cycleways.
- Access to information and disability support.
- Physical access to businesses, shops and public buildings.
- Access to hospital and medical facilities, including after hours.
- Lack of public transport between Waipukurau and Waipawa.
- Visibility of buildings and clearer signage.
- Lack of facilities for disabled people.
- Limited funding for non-government groups and other support organisations.

People with disabilities in Central Hawke’s Bay will have improved access to public places and spaces.

GOAL 1

#### ACTION

- People are encouraged to submit issues that need fixing to Council.
- People are encouraged to submit proposals on improvements of council owned facilities and spaces.
- Council laws relating to access are continually enforced.
- Council officers consult with stakeholder groups when undertaking new projects in the district.
- Council offices are audited for accessibility and area for improvement noted.
- Public facilities and spaces are audited for accessibility and areas for improvement noted and fixed when possible.
- Strategies and policies include disability specific content where appropriate, including links to the Disability Action plan.

People with disabilities in Central Hawke’s Bay will have easy access to information and support.

GOAL 2

#### ACTION

- Council communications and publications are accessible at all Council Offices and Service Centres and Libraries (eg height of shelving).
- Communication pathways are strengthened to ensure people with disabilities receive information about services available in the district.

Sector agencies and organisations are supported, and Council advocates to Central Government on behalf of local issues.

### GOAL 3

#### ACTION

- Council is an active participant of Disability Reference Group meetings.
- Iwi are engaged with to discuss issues for Maori disabled people.
- Council will advocate on issues affecting those living with disabilities in Central Hawke's Bay.
- Council will support sector groups and organisations in lobbying for funding for Central Hawkes Bay residents.

Council's role is to coordinate, advocate and facilitate Community Wellbeing initiatives, projects and strategy at a local level.

Council's interaction with government and non-government agencies that work with those living with a disability ensures strong connections across the sector, enabling good development across the district. This in turn acts as a way of improving the wellbeing of our community as a whole.





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