

Purpose

To ensure Waitaha is for *Every Body*.

Vision

An accessible and inclusive Canterbury where all people with disabilities enjoy full lives without barriers.

Mission

Together with the local disability community, we develop access and wellbeing solutions that benefit all.

Values

- Rangatiratanga – Disabled people and whānau are leaders and decision-makers
- Accessibility – Access for all is at the heart of our solutions
- Wellbeing – We promote mental, physical, spiritual, social and whānau wellbeing
- Diversity – All disabled experiences and expertise have equal mana
- Kotahitanga – We work together as one with our community to create change

Actions

We achieve our vision and mission through:

Whanaungatanga: Our regular, independent network meetings foster connections among disabled people, whānau, organisations and sector decision-makers. Together we raise issues and propose solutions that remove barriers in Canterbury.

Accessibility and inclusion promotion: We collaborate with our local disability community to facilitate positive initiatives and responses to accessibility and inclusion issues.

Education: We collect independent information and educate our city's leaders on accessible and inclusive processes, using our network's unique collective experience and expertise. We support decision-makers to identify where changes need to be made to benefit all.

Reporting: We collate and structure a body of knowledge that offers more than a decade of insights from a large network of disabled people in Canterbury, including stories of recovery and resilience from the Canterbury earthquakes, the March 15 attacks, and COVID-19.

Priority focus areas

Our current areas of work include:

- Facilitating regular disability community network meetings to connect people, and solve local accessibility and inclusion issues
- Supporting mental health and wellbeing workshops and resources for Ōtautahi's disability community
- Supporting an inclusive, ongoing COVID-19 crisis response for disabled people in Canterbury
- Collating disability community learnings from the Canterbury earthquakes and beyond to inform future public crisis responses
- Emergency/crisis preparedness for disabled people
- Accessibility of public buildings and spaces in Ōtautahi and Canterbury
- All-of-government submissions to directly influence disability and health sector decisions.

Outcomes and impact

The outcomes we are working towards include:

Short-term

- Disabled people have access to specifically designed mental health education resources and workshops.
- Disabled people learn positive mental-health and resilience tools to better cope with the pandemic and other challenges.
- The Christchurch City Council Long-Term Plan considers and addresses inclusion and accessibility issues.
- The Long-Term Plan consultation process is accessible and the Plan is available in various accessible formats.

Medium-term

- Disability Leadership Canterbury has enhanced partnerships with local decision-makers and sector leaders that further accessibility and inclusion.
- Local accessibility and inclusion initiatives incorporate a kaupapa Māori approach.

Long-term

- Improved mental, physical, spiritual and social wellbeing for disabled people in Canterbury
- Enhanced contribution of disabled people in local decision making
- Public processes and solutions that are inclusive and accessible for all
- Local crisis and emergency responses that work for the whole community, keeping us all safe
- Universally accessible public buildings and spaces that everyone in Canterbury can enjoy
- Disabled people contribute to their wider community.