

Disability Action Group Annual Report 2019

The Disability Action Group (DAG) works with the Far North District Council (FNDC) to advocate for a more accessible environment for Far North residents and visitors with disabilities.

This report covers the period 30 June 2018-1 July 2019 and outlines key areas of advocacy and action for the DAG during this time.

DAG structure, strategy and operation

The DAG has held quarterly meetings and an annual strategic workshop as outlined in the recently developed Terms of Reference. A speaker with a wireless microphone has increased accessibility for those attending DAG meetings.

DAG engagement with Council and Community Boards

The DAG strategic goals developed through the annual strategic workshop have been presented to Council through a DAG deputation to a Council meeting.

The DAG annual report has been presented to each of the three community boards, gaining support for the DAG request to reinstate a community board agenda item about disabilities.

DAG engagement with FNDC staff

The DAG chairperson has met directly with the FNDC CEO to discuss the work of the DAG.

The DAG has given feedback on Reserve Management Plans for Lindvart Park and Kerikeri Domain.

The DAG has made a submission on the Draft District Plan to advocate for increased accessibility across all zones.

The DAG has engaged with the FNDC Transport Planner to provide feedback on the process to create new accessible car parking spaces, to recommend new spaces, and to recommend improvements for existing spaces. DAG has advocated for increased monitoring for accessible car parking spaces.

The DAG chairperson attended a workshop about the FNDC Integrated Transport Strategy.

The DAG has provided feedback to the Strategy & Policy team regarding the future review of the Equity and Access for People with Disabilities policy.

DAG promotion

The FNDC has issued a DAG media release which generated two articles in local newspapers, been featured in a social media post on the FNDC Facebook page, and recruited new members.

Accessible transport

The DAG has engaged with a range of agencies to advocate for improvements in accessible transport. These have included Northland DHB, Northland Regional Council, FNDC, and local Members of Parliament, Matt King and Kelvin Davis. The DAG has advocated for the allocation of FNDC funding to support accessible transport through schemes such as Total Mobility.

Disability Awareness Training

The DAG has successfully advocated to FNDC to provide disability awareness training for staff in line with the Equity and Access for People with Disabilities policy. The next round of training has been scheduled for 2019.

Equity and Access

The DAG has advocated for equity and access in matters other than accessibility for people with mobility or sensory impairments. For example the DAG has advocated for the needs of people with intellectual disabilities, mental health conditions and respiratory disabilities in their work.

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