

Accessibility Advisory Group  
Annual Report  
2022-2023

## ***Accessibility Advisory Group.***

### **Purpose**

The Purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) is to:

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the Terms of Reference.

### **Group Composition**

AAG membership has been selected to provide a considerable range and depth of disability expertise. All members have lived experience of disability and there is a variety of experiences. We do not purport to represent any particular community or the full spectrum of disability perspectives, however we do have a diverse mix of gender, ethnicity, age, impairments, and disability.

### **AAG Members in 2023**

Susan Williams (Co-chair)	Ra Smith (new)*
Erikka Helliwell (Co-chair)	Rachel Noble
Ali Aminifard (new)*	Renee Patete
Cyrus Dahl (new)*	Olivia Murphy
David Karl	
Donna Fasavalu	Moko Maata (Resigned)
Hannah Gibson	Nick Ruane (Term ended July 2023)
Humphrey Hanley	Solmaz Nazari Orakani (Resigned)

\*New members as of July 2023 meeting.

### **Councillor Representatives**

Councillor Rebecca Matthews  
Councillor Iona Pannett (Alternate)

## **Council officers**

Liam Hodgetts (Executive Leadership Team Representative)  
Marcella Freeman (AAG Democracy Advisor)

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to acknowledge all the officers who engaged with the group and the work they have put into working with our ropu

## **Reporting Structure**

The Accessibility Advisory Group reports as a single body.

## **Membership and Meetings**

AAG does not have any current internal or external memoranda of understanding or formal relationships.

Attendance at AAG meetings over the July 2022 – June 2023 year (11 meetings) has been as follows:

Name	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage
Donna Fasavalu	9/11	82%
Hannah Gibson	6/11	55%
Humphrey Hanley	7/11	63%
Erikka Helliwell	10/11	91%
David Karl	10/11	91%
Moko Mataa	4/4	100%
Olivia Murphy	10/11	91%
Solmaz Nazari Orakani	5/6	83%
Rachel Noble	10/11	91%
Renee Patete	11/11	100%
Nick Ruane	10/11	91%
Susan Williams	10/11	91%

## **2021-2023 Work Programme:**

Our 2021-2023 programme focused on updating documents, providing advice on: housing, transport, urban design, community facilities, emergency management. We also spent time this year connecting with other advisory groups in order to strengthen the advisory arm of the council.

The Accessibility Action Plan was included on our previous work programme, this work is still underway.

We have continued to advocate for safety, accessibility and inclusion within the city and have incorporated this into our feedback on projects presented to the group. Our approach has been to take a disability rights lens across the advice we have given the council. We believe that positioning the councils work from disability rights lens is the best way to achieve system level change to improve accessibility and inclusion of disabled people across the city.

We would have liked engagement with WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office). Lets Get Wellington Moving and how it will ensure disabled people have access to the city (both central and suburbs) continues to be a topic of concern for disabled people in Wellington.

## **Provision of Advice**

AAG was able to provide advice to the following projects during this report period:

<b>July 2022</b>	District plan and Sexual Violence Prevention Plan
<b>Aug 2022</b>	Community Facilities Project Plan and Wellington Design Manual
<b>Sept 2022</b>	Cycleways Connection Project and Let's Get Wellington Moving
<b>Oct 2022</b>	Te Matapihi, City Housing and Health Localities Project (Te Whatu Ora)
<b>Nov 2022</b>	Tākai Here, Tūpiki Ora and Cultural Heritage Strategy
<b>Jan 2023</b>	Island Bay Project and Reimagining Toi Pōneke
<b>Feb 2023</b>	Housing Development Project Updates (site visit)
<b>Mar 2023</b>	Annual Plan
<b>April 2023</b>	Community Facilities Project Plan and Frank Kitts Park

<b>May 2023</b>	Te Ara Tupua
<b>June 2023</b>	Members only discussions

## **Aspirations and challenges for the year ahead**

We strive for a more strategic view and would like to move into position where we have more opportunity to show leadership.

We will continue to advocate for a disability rights approach to accessibility and inclusion across the work of the Council

There are some specific areas we would like to focus on in order to have the great impact. These areas include:

- The Youth Hub, planned for Willis Street.
- Universal design, Wellington Design Manual.
- Working with other advisory groups.
- Policy works programme.
- Wellington Airport Accessibility.
- Community Spaces. Specifically, Tākina, Council Controlled Organizations spaces and public bathrooms.
- Accessibility Action Plan.
- Let's Get Wellington Moving Project.

With two accessibility advisors having left, we have felt a loss of momentum and have concerns that some of the progress that was made will become lost.

Many of the barriers faced by the members fall outside of the jurisdiction of Wellington City Council. However, we would like to utilize Wellington City Councils connections to engage with organisations such as the Wellington Airport, the new convention centre and Zealandia to address accessibility concerns.