

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MNUTES

**5.30 PM
TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2006**

Committee Room 2

Members

Kendall Akhurst
Jules Tangiwha
Jenny Rains
Paul Sisson
Kaeti Rigarlsford

Ross Livingstone
Lorraine Offord (Chair)
Nick Luger
Thomas Bryan (Chair)
Joanne Ward

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Councillor Leonie Gill

3. Confirmation of Minutes

4. Legal Services Agency

A brief explanation was given to the group about the Legal Services Agency. The Agency provides mostly legal aid but also has a statutory obligation to provide education and information about the law to address unmet needs. This can be done in two ways.

- By accessing the website which holds all the necessary information that would be required.
- By producing law-related kits that are available to community law centres. Citizens Advice Bureaus and other groups and organisations.

They are looking at producing a kit on disability and need feedback on areas of the law that are particularly relevant to the everyday lives of people with

disabilities and which areas need more work done on them in order for proper access to justice.

5. Living Streets Aotearoa

An explanation of Living Streets Aotearoa was given to the group. They have been engaged by the Health Sponsorship Council to produce a map to make it easier for people to walk around Newtown. The walking map is a pilot scheme to encourage people to walk instead of using a car. A questionnaire was circulated and the group was invited to give details of preferred routes taken to Newtown, from Newtown and through or within Newtown, and if they choose to get around Newtown by other means apart from walking, why they choose to go this way. After some discussion there was concern that the Scheme was being rushed through without time being taken to address issues relating to disability.

6. Other Business

The group was emailed regarding upcoming meetings in relation to the LTCCP which are of interest to the group. Members of the DRG expressed interest in the meetings they were interested in attending.

An email was brought to the attention of the group regarding a complaint against the Wellington City Council. It was agreed that the complaint should be handled carefully because of its complex nature.

Feedback was sought from other members of the DRG on the Emergency Planning and Readiness document and a proposal to build a path at Makara Cemetery. An elderly woman slipped on the grass and broke her leg. Kendall, Kaeti and Jules would visit the site independently and report back. The DLO considers that given the topography of the cemetery that we accept that the gradients will not meet the minimum 1:12. Although not desirable we should work with Parks & Gardens to ensure safety is paramount in their design.

Discussion was held on the Accessible Wellington Forum to determine its success and the way forward. It was thought that the best way to do this is to evaluate the forum and put in place any improvements needed.

The next Accessible Wellington Forum is scheduled for Monday 4 December 06. A subgroup was formed consisting of Ollie, Kendall, Kaeti, Jules, Joanne and Lorraine. The theme will revolve around "Youth" and transition from tertiary to work, work experience etc. This will build on April's Forum.

Seating at events was discussed further in regard to wheelchair seating being placed in the premium areas for an event. Paul was to pursue this with the HRC and report back in due course.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 9 MAY 2006