



Outcome 6 - Attitudes



“We are treated with dignity and respect”

New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2016-2026

Disability is understood and accepted as part of the diversity of the human experience and those living with a disability are treated with dignity and respect by those around us and society more broadly. Individuals are encouraged to speak out and their views are listened to.

Strategy In Action

Hutt City Council’s Accessibility and Inclusiveness Advisory Group

Hutt City Council is seeking expert advice on how to make the City a more welcoming place for people living with disability.

An Accessibility and Inclusiveness Advisory Group is being established to advise councillors on issues that directly impact the disability community such as accessibility and usability of Council services and facilities, access to public transport and outdoor spaces and how to make getting around the City easier. The Group will play a central role in implementing and achieving the outcomes outlined in the Council’s Accessibility and Inclusiveness Plan 2017-2027. It is key that the Group focuses on accessibility, not disability, as this means that the outcomes will cater to many demographics, such as older people with low mobility.

Hutt City Council Divisional Manager Strategy and Planning Wendy Moore says the group will provide a fresh and important perspective around the design and implementation of services, facilities and infrastructure.

It is estimated that 24 percent of Kiwis identify as disabled, translating to around 24,400 people in Lower Hutt alone. This proportion jumps to 59 percent of those aged 65 or over.

“This is a very significant proportion of our residents – a group whose perspectives on how to navigate the City and access services and amenities have, on occasion, been overlooked in the past,” she says.

“It is important that all Hutt Valley residents have an equal opportunity to enjoy our City.”

Lower Hutt Mayor Ray Wallace is supportive of the initiative, saying that people with disabilities need to be considered in council decision-making.

“The new Advisory Group is a big step-forward in making sure that council decisions reflect the unique perspectives and needs of those living with disability.”

To make applying for a position on the group easier for people with a learning disability, the Council provided an easy-read version of the application form, only the second council in New Zealand to offer this form of assistance.

Resources and Guidance

Hutt City Council

For more information about Hutt City Council's Accessibility and Inclusiveness Advisory Group.

→ website huttcity.govt.nz/accessibility

Attitude Live

Attitude Live offers a large collection of videos about chronic health and disability. It works with organisations, service providers, government agencies and brands to develop online and broadcast content. The organisation promotes achievement through its annual Attitude Awards.

→ website attitudelive.com

Office for Disability Issues – disability etiquette

The Office for Disability Issues has a set of guidelines on how to approach disabled people. The rules of etiquette and good manners for interacting with disabled people are generally the same as the rules for good etiquette in society.

→ website odi.govt.nz/about-disability/disability-etiquette

People First New Zealand

People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi is a national disabled persons organisation that is led and directed by people with learning (intellectual) disability.

→ website peoplefirst.org.nz

→ email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

→ phone 0800 20 60 70