



Earthquake Disability Leadership Group Network Meeting

10am-11.30am 14 February 2020

Location: Papanui RSA, 1 Harewood Road

Present: Karen Winder, Haley Nielsen, Carina Duke, Karen Rickerby, Nick Stoneman, Simon Atkinson, Andrea Lamont, Andy Carpenter, Sonja Carpenter and husband, Brenda Donoghue, Carolyn Stiles, Sandra Gilmour, Lesley Campbell, Hon. Ruth Dyson, Andrew Hey, Camille Ross, James Skinner, Peter Crane, Karim Baradi, Rose Maple, Justin Muschamp, Ruth Jones, Alison Nichols-Dunsmuir, Erin, Anna (YMCA youth worker), Roger Marsden, Marty Van Der Kley, James (People First), Shane McInroe, Hannah McKnight, Gary William

In attendance: Interpreter

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ruth opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed the attendees. She offered a special welcome and thanks to the Hon. Ruth Dyson for her continued support of the EDLG kaupapa and Chrissie Cowan, Access Alliance, for her continued passion and work towards achieving access legislation for Aotearoa New Zealand.

The meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their vision for an accessible New Zealand and identified some accessibility issues locally.

The Chair noted that there were still more accessibility issues to address in Christchurch and acknowledged the enthusiasm amongst the audience for continuing the work of EDLG and the need to access further funding.

Action:

- EDLG to consider continuing the work of the group with new members and work to access additional funding.
- People interested in joining the Trust to contact Ruth

2. Engagement with Hon Ruth Dyson

The Hon. Ruth Dyson introduced herself as the MP for the Port Hills (which was badly affected by the Canterbury earthquake events) and as the first Minister for Disability Issues. As Minister for Disability Issues she noted that:

- issues that affect disabled people affect every portfolio (e.g. housing, transport etc.).
- At the United Nations NZ set the standard for advocacy with disabled people participating in the meetings – ‘nothing about us without us.’

- There was a lack of accessibility in NZ's Parliament, for example lack of access to our democracy and lack of easy-to-read legislation; and that recommendations to enhance the accessibility of NZ's Parliament are currently being implemented.

Noted also that there had been a drive for accessibility legislation over the past 5 years and that with cross-party agreement the law had to change. It was noted that there would be a report back to Cabinet by June 2020 about the substance of the legislation and that this was likely to be signed off.

This would contribute to an inclusive society for NZ – a society that made everything accessible for everyone from 'cradle to elderly' people.

The Hon. Ruth Dyson provided some advice about making submissions and campaigning including:

- Use personal stories of disability as this has a huge impact on members of Parliament e.g. easy to read campaign; parking; changing rooms
- Talk about EDLG and what it has achieved
- Use MPs to influence change
- Use solutions from other countries.

Action

- It was agreed to form a working group via EDLG, to build momentum for the accessibility legislation.

Chrissie Cowan, Access Alliance

Chrissie offered the following observations about the Access Alliance:

- Access Alliance established in 2015 with organisations from the Disability Sector. The initial focus was to decide what to do about Article 9 in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- Noted that traction was gained by the Access Matters Campaign which included training campaigners; consulting with local businesses; etc.
- 2017 the Minister gained Cabinet's endorsement to develop a work programme regarding access including broadening access to include older people, CALD communities, etc.
- The cross-party support for the access legislation was important
- 7,000 supporters of the access legislation
- EDLG had become part of the Access Alliance.

Chrissie noted the Access Alliance Steering Group noted:

- The announcement of the 2020 election day
- That the 2020 campaign to get the access legislation passed was still a key priority; that there was no change in the timeframes; and that the introduction of the Bill was needed to drive the legislation forward
- That education and awareness were still priorities.

She noted the #AccessLaw2020.

Chrissy suggested the following actions:

- Contact people's local MPs
- Spread the word including saying why access is important
- Join the Access Alliance campaign
- Tell the Christchurch story and include the research.

EDLG Legacy

Ruth mentioned that the EDLG was commissioning the story of EDLG, the people who made a difference, the enduring messages of success and what the future holds. People at the network meeting were invited to offer suggestions about the questions to be asked; the people to be interviewed; and what people would like to see in this legacy story.

Action:

- EDLG Network to email Ruth with suggestions about the legacy story namely
 - Who we should talk to
 - Good and not so good examples of process and accessibility in Christchurch

The EDLG Network meeting closed at 11.30am.