



Earthquake Disability Leadership Group Network Meeting

10am-12 noon 07 August 2020

Location: Papanui RSA, 1 Harewood Road

Present: Carina Duke, Ruth Jones, Alison Nichols-Dunsmuir, Rachel Mullins, Jamie Hoffman (DPA), Nathan Morgan, Kylie Taylor (Aspire Canterbury), Marty Van Der Kley, Andrew Hall (NZ Spinal Trust), Shane McInroe, Hannah McKnight, Gary Williams, Carolyn Stiles (Blind Low Vision), Andrew Hey, Simon Atkinson, Madeline Wenmouth (NZ Spinal Trust), Helen Leahy (Pouarahi/CEO of Te Pūtahitanga), Karim Baradi, Lesley Campbell, Daniel Cresswell (People First), Mary Anderson (People First), Sarah Healy, Steve, Robyn, Bazz, Andrew, Elizabeth, Ian Neilson (Hohepa), Marg Matheson (PF), Margaret Russell, Nick Stoneman (Christchurch Advocates), Anthony Swindell, Maria Godinet-Watts, Hine Hanara-Benbow

In attendance: Sign Language Interpreters (Rekha Rosarie, Marlene Beale, Tony)

Apology: Cate Grace

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ruth opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed the attendees.

She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to gather the disability sector's experiences of Covid-19 to add to other research on the topic and to inform better disaster responses in the future. Ruth stated that the information gathered from the meeting attendees would be collated and shared with those attending the meeting as well as used to inform the DPA's General Election Forum.

The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Notice Board

A number of notices of interest to those at the meeting were offered including:

- Karim announced the 2020 General Election Forum co-hosted by DPA and the Deaf Society Canterbury to be held on Saturday 22 August 2020 between 1-4pm at 80 Fitzgerald Avenue. He noted that he would be facilitating the question and answer session.
- Carina Duke, Blind Low Vision NZ, notified the meeting about the Accessible Streets package that included shared pathways for walkers and bikers. This proposal would be a hindrance to the safety of those with sensory impairments.
- Rachel Mullins, CCC, stated that the KiwiAble Network meeting was scheduled for 03 September 2020 between 10am and 12 noon at the Beckenham Service Centre, Colombo Street. She noted that at that meeting the Aquatic Sensory centre at Metro Sports would be discussed. She also told members about a Christchurch City

Council survey that the was to seek comments about what services could be offered to the community. The survey is open until the end of September.

- Lesley Campbell mentioned that the EDLG was carrying out an EDLG Legacy project that told others about the story of EDLG, the people who made a difference, the enduring messages of success and the lessons learned for the future. People at the network meeting were invited to contact Lesley if they would like to offer their comments about their experiences of EDLG.
- Kylie Taylor, information and Community Manager Aspire Canterbury, stated that their organisation had moved from its prior office in Worchester Street to 17 E Bishopdale Courts.
- Simon Atkinson commented that there was a People First meeting on Saturday between 2-4pm at the Christchurch Community House.

Action:

- EDLG Network to contact Lesley Campbell at camfam1@slingshot.co.nz if they would like to share their experiences of EDLG.

3. EDLG Update and Summary

Ruth provided some background information about EDLG. In particular she noted that the EDLG had been established following the Canterbury earthquake series of 2010-2011 to provide a collective disability voice to build back an accessible city.

She noted that EDLG remained relevant today, for example, what happened to the disability community following the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Covid -19 and Disabled People

Alison introduced the Covid-19 workshop with some background information about the everyday challenges that disabled people experience and noted that such experiences become exacerbated within crisis environments. She offered the following observations:

- There was a lack of understanding within our community about the experience of having a disability
- That people with disabilities hold a number of strengths for example making plans for disasters including which people they can receive help from
- That the recent pandemic showed that the challenges people with disabilities face in tier everyday lives are multiplied during disasters. Some of these problematic areas included communication (i.e. what people were told about Covid-19); support services affected; isolation; financial; and understanding from the decision-makers

Ruth introduced the workshop about people's experiences of Covid-19. She explained that a world café style approach would be used and that people would be invited to provide information about their experiences of what went well and the challenges they faced during Covid-19 as well as their views about opportunities for the future.

Ruth noted that the information would be collated and shared with a Community Leaders forum that EDLG was planning as well as providing an evidence base for future responses to disasters and to improve accessibility.

The meeting participants formed three groups and provided feedback about their experiences of Covid-19 over a period of one and a half hours with a working morning tea at 11am.

Ruth thanked people for their contribution during the workshop. She stated that the collated results would be placed on the EDLG website and circulated to the participants at the meeting.

The EDLG Network meeting closed at 12 noon.