



DPA (New Zealand) Inc

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March Newsletter 2010

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Saying

I've learned-
that two people can look at the exact same thing,
and see something totally different!

DPA's telephone messages

Thank you for leaving your messages.

Do not forget to leave **your telephone number first**, then your message as it certainly makes a difference as we can promptly return your call.

Co-ordinator's Comments

Note: Coordinator's Comments

Hello Everyone,

DPA would love to hear from you-thanks. Plenty is occurring with your responses.

1. We are aware of several people finding the Overlander train not meeting accessibility Needs.
2. lobbying Government to enable accessible signage being in our legislation as the only requirements for it to be there at present is if the building owner requests it to be, such as council buildings, and educational facilities, for example universities and polytechnics. Check out page 3 for more info.

Wow lastly we would like to thank you for your responses and feedback if you sent in letters regarding the DHB budget review on our essential Health system with the Star 3 Ward at risk of closure and the advantages you gained!

If you did not get a chance to reply to DPA PN & districts before 5 March then please do still send mail in for our archives and DPA will contact you if you leave your contact details and number.

We look forward to your feedback

Delysse Kennard DPA PN Coordinator

President's Corner

Note: President's Corner

The first days of autumn are here and the year seems to be ticking along extremely fast. The new Community Centre project has started and I am looking forward to seeing the finished project up and running. The Community Centre will be a great asset for Manawatu consumers who will not have to travel over town to visit agencies but will have most of their needs met in the one centre.

I am watching with interest the DHB cutbacks. For me personally the closure of a much needed and utilised rehabilitation unit would be a travesty. Many people including myself have benefited from using the valuable services provided by the rehabilitation unit and to lose a wonderful and life changing service could have potential catastrophic repercussions.

Keep an eye out for interesting forums that will be taking place shortly and of course the **Palmerston North DPA website due to be live soon.**

Christine Clark DPA PN President

The new subscription rates which are effective from 1 July 2010 for your information are:-

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Unwaged, Individual | \$ 15.00 |
| • Waged, Individual | \$ 30.00 |
| • Organisations, up to 25 members or clients | \$ 40.00 |
| • Organisations, 26 - 100 members or clients | \$ 80.00 |
| • Organisations, 101 - 200 members or clients | \$120.00 |
| • Organisations, 201 or more members or clients | \$150.00 |
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Draft Accessible Signage Guidelines

The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) is seeking your feedback on best practice guidelines for accessible signage usable by blind and partially sighted people, including those who are deafblind.

Draft Guidelines

www.rnzrb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/draftguidelines

Download the draft guidelines www.rnzfb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/wordsignageguidelines

Feedback

If you would like to submit feedback, you can do so in the following ways:

using www.rnzfb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/feedbackform

email: signage@rnzfb.org.nz

or send feedback in braille to **Lisette Wesseling, Braille Awareness Consultant, P O Box 27177, Wellington 6141**

The closing date for your feedback is **Monday 26 April 2010**.

Background

There is currently no legislation in New Zealand requiring signage to be accessible to all users of a building or facility. Existing accessibility standards do not include specific guidance on braille and tactile signage. However the New Zealand Government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008, which commits in Article 9(2)d to "Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms".

The purpose of developing these guidelines is to assist the public/private sector to meet this international commitment and to work towards building an accessible and equitable society for blind and partially sighted people. Guidelines will be made available to the many members of the public, business owners and sign writers who frequently contact RNZFB for advice on accessible signage.

Developing the draft guidelines

Some of the braille guidelines have been discussed and agreed by the Braille Literacy Panel at its March 2009 meeting. In the first instance, all the draft guidelines are based on **NZS4121**. Where this standard is unclear, they are based on other overseas legislation, standards and guidelines.

This draft is being sent to RNZFB staff, the Braille Authority of New Zealand, BLENNZ and consumer organisations. Individual braille readers are also being made aware of the draft through the <http://lists.rnzfb.org.nz/mailman/listinfo/braille> and the <http://www.rnzfb.org.nz/ourservices/readingandwriting/braille/brailnews>

Once all feedback has been received and considered by RNZFB staff, the final version will be published on the RNZFB website. RNZFB will also use the guidelines as part of audits and recommendations we make. While these guidelines will not be laws, we hope they will be easy to understand, with enough technical information so they can assist the public/private sector to build a more accessible and equitable society.

DPA PN & Districts Committee Dates

4.30pm Start

- **April 8th**
- **June 10th**
- **August 12th**
- **October 14th AGM**
- **December 9th**



Community Notices

Note: Community Notices

Great Forests Events 2010

Halberg Trust and Westpac are working in partnership to support disabled people participating in sport and recreation. The Westpac Halberg team is inviting you to join us to participate in the 5km or 10km run/walk at Waitarere Forest, on Saturday April 10th. You will need to arrive at the venue 10:30a.m.

The Waitarere Forest 5km and 10km course terrain is gravel. Sand and some grass. Volunteers will be available to support wheelchair users with pushing over the rough terrain: large front castors will be beneficial for this terrain. Mobility parking is available on display of mobility parking card.

As a registered Westpac Halberg Team participant you will receive free registration, a Westpac dri-fit t-shirt, food, refreshments and shelter after the race for yourself and one other support person. For general information, go to www.sportsmanawatu.org.nz. To register to be part of the Halberg Westpac team, send your information to; Helen Johnson, Sport Manawatu, Queen Street, Palmerston North, 4440. Helen.johnson@sportsmanawatu.org.nz. Ph: 06 357 5349 Tues-Fri. RSVP 30 March.

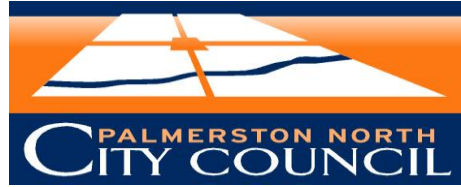
DPA 2010 FORUMS

Note: DPA Upcoming Forums

DPA wishes to know what other forums you would like hosted therefore please contact the office. Stay tuned for the dates for our upcoming forums & check out page 5 for our April Agenda, would love to have you at the forum e.g. DHB Services & Forums.



DPA (New Zealand) Inc



Disabled Persons Assembly and PNCC Public Forum - **Sign Language Interpreters** at meeting.

All Welcome as DPA wants to hear about your concerns in regards to the following services. Please pass this agenda around to anyone who may be interested in attending and please phone regarding numbers

Service concerns re: upcoming budget cuts

Core District Health Board (DHB) Services under threat:

- ✓ **Community Nursing**
- ✓ **Dental**
- ✓ **Diabetes**
- ✓ **Health Protection**
- ✓ **Mental Health**
- ✓ **Sexual Health**
- ✓ **Star 3 Ward (closure)**

Date: Tuesday 27th April
 Venue: Community Leisure Centre
 569 Fergusson Street
 Palmerston North
 Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
 RSVP: Friday 23rd April

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