



Disability
Leadership
Canterbury

Waitaha for Every Body



What is Disability Leadership Canterbury?



February 2021

Who are we?



This is Easy Read information about **Disability Leadership Canterbury.**

Disability Leadership Canterbury works with:



- disabled people
- the whānau / family of disabled people.



Disability Leadership Canterbury supports people who live in:

- **Christchurch**
- **Canterbury.**



Canterbury is an area in the South Island of New Zealand.

Christchurch is the biggest city in Canterbury.



Disability Leadership Canterbury believes in a Canterbury where all disabled people can enjoy a life free from **barriers**.



Barriers are things that make it hard for disabled people to live the way they want to such as:

- buildings that have not been designed with disabled people in mind
- things that make it harder for disabled people to communicate with other people.





Lots of different people are involved with Disability Leadership Canterbury.

These people include:

- people who are part of our **Trust**
- disabled people
- disabled persons organisations.



A **Trust** is a way of deciding what services / support are provided to suit the needs of people who are involved.

The people who make the decisions about how the Trust is run include:

- people who use the services
- carers
- members of the public.





Many of the people in Disability Leadership Canterbury are part of:

- important groups in the community
- local government groups.



Disability Leadership Canterbury gives advice to people who are involved in making Canterbury a better place for disabled people.

This means we support doing things that make things better like:

- **accessibility**
- **inclusion**
- **wellbeing.**





Accessibility makes sure that disabled people can do what they need to do as easily as someone who is not disabled.



Inclusion makes sure that disabled people have:

- the same rights as people who are not disabled
- the same opportunities as people who are not disabled.



Wellbeing looks at:

- how disabled people feel about their lives
- how in control of their lives disabled people feel they are.



Disability Leadership Canterbury
supports good communication:

- from the disabled community
- to the disabled community.

Where we came from



Disability Leadership Canterbury is run by the **Earthquake Disability Leadership Group Trust**.



The **Earthquake Disability Leadership Group Trust** was set up in 2011 by Ruth Jones and Gary Williams.



It was set up to ensure Christchurch was rebuilt with **accessibility** in mind.



The Trust now supports disabled people under our new name of Disability Leadership Canterbury.

What we do

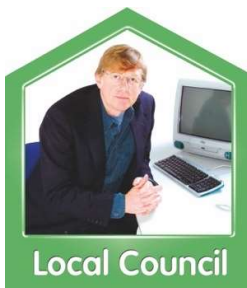


Disability Leadership Canterbury does lots of work with the disabled community.



We have regular meetings for:

- disabled people
- other organisations.



These meetings support stronger connections between:

- the disabled community
- local government
- health organisations.





We also work with other organisations in Canterbury to make things easier for:

- disabled people
- the whānau / family of disabled people.



We do this by:

- drawing attention to the problems that affect many disabled people
- finding ways to make things better.



We work with disabled people to support them to do things about the problems they find.



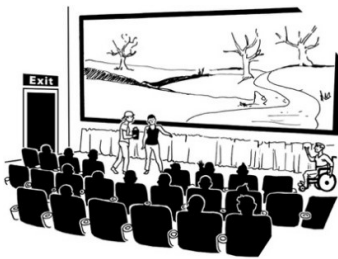


The things that disabled people do can make things better for the whole community.

People in Disability Leadership Canterbury:

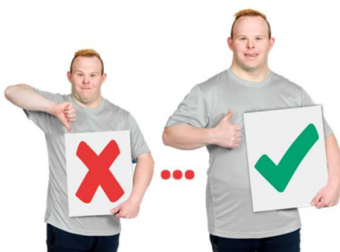


- know about lots of different things
- can do many different things.



We give information to local government / health organisations to help them make good choices:

- about **accessibility**
- about being **inclusive**.

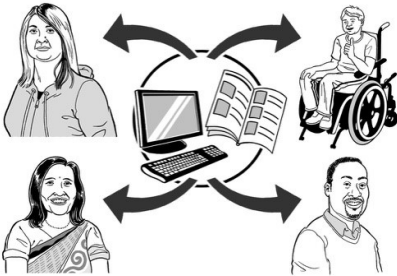


We support local government / health organisation to see where changes need to be made that can be good for everybody.

Our resources



Disability Leadership Canterbury puts together a collection of **resources** to help disabled people.



Resources are things that people can use:

- to find information
- to get support.



Some of these resources are stories of **lived experience** from disabled people in Canterbury.



Lived experience is what people know because of:

- things that have happened to them
- what they have done in their life.



The collection includes:

- things people have learned over the past 10 years
- personal stories from over the past 10 years.

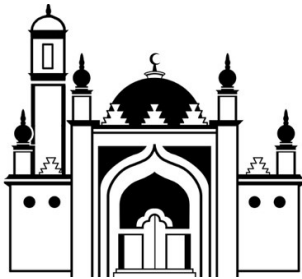


It includes stories that focus on how people have got through difficult times in their lives.



It also includes stories about how people have found the strength to get through difficult events like:

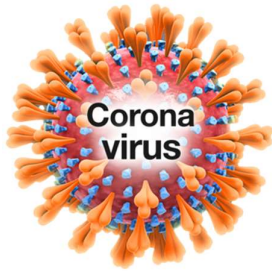
- the Canterbury earthquakes
- the **March 15 attacks**
- **COVID-19.**



The **March 15 attacks** were an attack on 2 mosques in Christchurch where a person with a gun hurt many Muslim people.

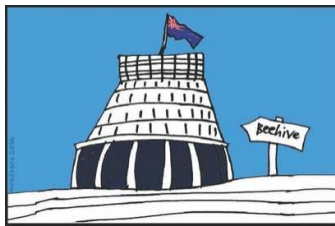


The person who did this is now in prison.



COVID-19 is a **virus** that has spread around the world.

A **virus** is something that can make people very sick.



Disability Leadership Canterbury also gives the New Zealand Government advice on what should happen with:

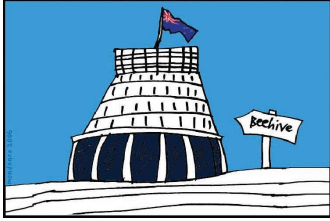
- things about disability
- things about health.



We do this by sharing the ideas that disabled people have about:



- changing the laws
- the disability system



We also give advice to the people who are making plans for the **Disability System Transformation** in New Zealand.



The **Disability System Transformation** will make sure disabled people have:

- greater choice in their lives
- more control over how they live their lives.

How to contact us



You can contact us by sending a message to **Ruth Jones**.



You can send an email to Ruth at:

kiaora@dlcanterbury.co.nz



You can also call or text Ruth on:

027 440 8573



You can visit our website at:

www.dlcanterbury.co.nz



You can also find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/DisabilityLeadershipCanterbury



This information has been written by Disability Leadership Canterbury.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



Make It Easy uses images from:



- Changepeople.org
- Photosymbols.com
- Sam Corliss



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.

