

Disabled Persons Assembly (NZ) Inc Policy Manual

Revised 2015

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Presidents foreword

I am pleased to present the DPA Policy guidelines, revised in 2015.

Our policy position remains the same as when it was signed off during the 2008/2009 annual general meeting. In this revision we have just revised the language and taken out references to matters that are out-of-date.

Our policies are the high level guidelines we use to reach our long term goals, or mission statement, which is to promote the interests and wellbeing of disabled people in New Zealand. Our policies are aligned to the general principals outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by New Zealand in 2008.

Our policy positions have been informed by the views of members and regular consultation and revision of this document will ensure this is always the case. In line with this members will be able to put forward remits for changes to policy at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November.

DPA has three documents that define us - our policy manual, our constitution and our strategic plan. Our policy manual is really important. It tells us and the world where we stand on issues, It is not meant to cover all issues, just those that have reached a consensus of agreement among our members. For this reason if an issue is not in the policy manual members should never make a statement publically about it, on behalf of DPA. Our constitution is the rule book for DPA and the third document is our strategic plan. This plan is developed by the NEC and staff to set priorities for DPA for 3-5 years, with annual review.

Using these three documents we have the tools we need to ensure DPA is run effectively.

It is important that as DPA members we are all familiar with our policy because it is the footpath we can all use to reach our long term goals. We need to refer to it when we speak about what DPA believes in and use it as high level guiding principles when we formulate organisational implementation plans and tactics.

Best wishes

Brendon Murray

DPA President 2015

A. Vision, Mission statement and Philosophy

Vision

A society which provides both equity and maximum opportunity to participate for all New Zealanders.

Mission statement

The assembly is established to promote in every way within New Zealand the interests and wellbeing of all disabled people.

Philosophy

Our Key Principles

DPA is a disabled person's organisation (DPO) with a pan-disability focus that works in collaboration with other DPOs and allied organisations to achieve inclusion for all disabled New Zealanders.

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underpin our activities.

The voices of our members and from our international umbrella organisations drive our actions.

DPA understands and focuses on the drivers of positive change

Disabled people must have the right and the opportunity to:

- Influence and shape policy at all levels
- Enjoy equality and full participation
- Make informed choices on issues
- Enjoy dignity and respect as a person
- Live as they choose with the appropriate supports/services

We, as New Zealand's representative member of Disabled Persons International and Rehabilitation International, promote the human rights of disabled people in accordance with the objectives of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

B. Fundamental Values

B.1 Policy statement – Equal value of life

DPA believes that:

Disability is a fundamental, intrinsic and natural characteristic of human beings, within the variability that comprises humanity. The life of a disabled person therefore has inherent and equal value of that of a person without a disability.

B.2 Policy statement – Human rights

DPA believes that:

Disabled people have equal rights to those of all other people in New Zealand society, including the right to participate in all aspects of economic, social and political life. These rights must be protected in accordance with the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Human Rights Act, and other rights-based laws.

- B.2.1 Disabled people must be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the UN CRPD.
- B.2.2 The Human Rights Commission must be adequately resourced to meet all its obligations under the Human Rights Act which includes community awareness and education programmes especially programmes developed for disabled people.
- B.2.3 Community education and other implementation strategies must recognise the important contribution that disabled people and their organisations can make when working in partnership
- B.2.4 Government agencies or agencies acting on behalf of the Government must comply with the spirit and intention of the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Act.
- B.2.5 All aspects of New Zealand social planning must include opportunities for the full participation of disabled people in the decision making process.

B.3 Policy statement - Partnership

DPA recognises:

The contents of Article II of the Treaty of Waitangi, and honours and respects the principal context of both parties to the Treaty of Waitangi, in order to protect the interests, values and protocols of DPA.

DPA is committed to developing the partnership with the tangata whenua, founded on the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

DPA recognises the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi, as paramount to the strategic development of the tangata whenua.

DPA recognises that disability issues do effect Maori, and that solutions need to reflect their culture and diversity

- B.3.1 DPA recognises that there are issues which often inhibit or prevent disabled people within whanau/hapu/iwi choosing a lifestyle that is culturally more appropriate and will work towards achieving positive responses to these issues.
- B.3.2 Resources must be available to whanau/hapu/iwi to ensure equal opportunities and to encourage further community participation.
- B.3.3 Funders of services must allow individuals and where appropriate families and whanau to actively influence the planning of services.
- B.3.4 Service providers must allow individuals, and where appropriate families and whanau to be actively involved in the delivery of services.
- B.3.5 In consultation with whanau/hapi/iwi, services must aim to obtain the best quality possible to meet the intended objectives and desired outcomes of people.

C. Social policy

Key principles

DPA believes that:

Disabled people have the human right to participate in all aspects of the New Zealand community. This includes equal rights to education, employment, recreation, rehabilitation, health and accommodation services and the right to a meaningful and adequate income.

In determining social policy the highest consideration must be given to upholding the individual's human and civil rights.

All Government policy must have the principles of:

- equity of access
- effective participation
- economic independence.

C.1 Policy statement – Support services

DPA believes that:

Every disabled person and their family should receive whatever services and other support or assistance which may be needed to reduce the disabling effects of impairment. Services must ensure each person has a full, meaningful and constructive life of their own choosing.

- C.1.1 Each person using services has the right to have an individually written plan of proposed and ongoing services and such plans should be made available to them in an understandable manner. The individual, and where they choose, with their parent, guardian or advocate, shall be directly involved in the preparation of such plans on an ongoing basis.
- C.1.2 Each person who uses a support service has their rights guaranteed by the Health and Disability Commission's Code of Consumers Rights.
- C.1.3 Disabled people are to have access to technology and equipment and services necessary to achieve independence, mobility and realisation of potential.
- C.1.4 Government must provide resources to establish and maintain training facilities which will ensure availability of necessary expertise to allow appropriate services to be delivered. People providing support services must gain their knowledge through their involvement in the disability community.
- C.1.5 Service providers must keep information confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act 1993.

C.2 Policy statement - Education

DPA believes that:

Every disabled person has the right to quality education at every level of the education system. There is a need for a range of education services to meet the needs of individuals within the regular education systems including access to second chance education and learning, and vocational training. Education must begin with early intervention and provide for lifelong learning, especially where educational opportunities have been delayed or disrupted.

- C.2.1 All education services for disabled people must recognise their ethnic cultural and religious origins and provide services appropriate to each person's primary language and cultural values.
- C.2.2 Disabled people have the same right as other people to attend the education facilities of their choice.

DPA Policy updated 2015

- C.2.3 Where the disabled person chooses or if appropriate parents and guardians or whanau must be fully involved in the educational placement of their dependents. Whenever possible, the individual with a disability must be involved in making decisions about his or her educational placement and future.
- C.2.4 Disabled people have the right to lifelong learning. This should be within the facilities offered to the wider community, if that is the person's choice.
- C.2.5 Vocational and academic education must be available to disabled people. Appropriate support such as teacher aides and other support services must be provided where appropriate, and such personnel should be involved in the disability community.
- C.2.6 Teacher pre-service training must include the educational needs of disabled people. In-service training on the nature of disability and its educational implications is essential.
- C.2.7 Disability awareness programmes must be developed and implemented at all levels within the education system and the community generally.
- C.2.8 Appropriate accredited training programmes must be funded for disabled people and those working with disabled people.
- C.2.9 Modern technology needed to assist people with communication disabilities, must be available as of right, and technical resource staff and maintenance personnel must be provided.
- C.2.10 Disabled people must have the choice to be educated with their non-disabled peers. In order to achieve this DPA emphasizes the need for:
- a) The allocation of appropriate resources.
 - b) Trained resource personnel to assist students and act as consultants to classroom teachers.
 - c) Access to and within all education buildings and facilities.
 - d) Access to all course material in formats such as sign language, large print, audio, Braille, or electronically to accommodate the learning needs of disabled people.
 - e) Noise level control and adequate lighting in classrooms to meet the needs of those people with sensory difficulties.
 - f) Individualised educational programmes must maximise learning outcomes.

C.3 Policy statement - Employment

DPA believes that:

It is the right of all persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to be engaged in productive and meaningful employment which provides flexibility, equal opportunity and career path development.

- C.3.1 Disabled people have the right to remuneration for work accomplished at proper rates of pay and conditions.
- C.3.2 Where remuneration for work is insufficient, there must be a system of income maintenance which ensures that the necessary income is available to the person.
- C.3.3 Vocational training, job modification, social skills and living skills training must be available to enable disabled people to engage in meaningful work.
- C.3.4 All people should have the same range of choices as others in the type of work available to them.
- C.3.5 Competitive employment in the open market place is the preferred option and must be actively encouraged.
- C.3.6 Effective and timely vocational assessment and training opportunities should be available in all communities to all people requiring such services. As well, provision should be available for those who wish to take up recognised alternatives outside of the area of mainstream employment.
- C.3.7 Vocational training and supported employment programmes must be provided by trained staff who have a sound knowledge appreciation of the needs, aspirations and rights of disabled people.
- C.3.8 Statutory and non-statutory agencies must co-operate with both the public, private and voluntary sector, and with unions, in providing educational and advisory services to promote employment opportunities for disabled people.
- C.3.9 The adoption and implementation of policies of equal employment opportunity by employers is fundamental to promoting and maintaining the rights of disabled people.
- C.3.10 Workplace modification services must be available free of charge to those who need them. Disabled people must have input into workplace modification decisions.
- C.3.11 Disabled people should have the right to register as a job seeker and receive support whether on a benefit or not.
- C.3.12 The New Zealand Government should adopt and implement the International Labour Organisation Convention on vocational needs of disabled people.

C.4 Policy Statement – Equal employment opportunities

DPA believes that:

It is essential that for a fair and equitable workplace to be established, equal employment opportunity strategies should be implemented.

- C.4.1 Disabled people will be given the necessary support to undertake whatever role they choose. DPA supports endeavours to eliminate discrimination and provide affirmative action programmes.
- C.4.2 All efforts are made to construct the appropriate conditions that give disabled people equity of access and opportunity to employment in whatever field of endeavour they choose.
- C.4.3 Equal employment hinges on extending to disabled people equitable accessibility and opportunity to further study or training. This is often the necessary groundwork to equal employment opportunity.

C.5 Policy Statement - Family life

DPA believes that:

Disabled people have the same right as other people to fully participate in all aspects of family life.

- C.5.1 Parents of children with disabilities have the right to support services to ensure that their child can fully participate in family life with their siblings **and peers**.
- C.5.2 Parents with disabilities have a right to support services to ensure they can fully participate in family life.

C.6 Policy statement - Health

DPA believes that:

All disabled people have the right to receive a range of quality and appropriate health services. Health care must, with informed consent, provide a maximum of choice and personal input and take full account of the particular needs of disabled people.

- C.6.1 Health sector bodies should have disabled people as members so that their views and perspectives are included in all matters related to health care and health services.
- C.6.2 Disabled people need appropriate health care. Cultural and ethnic origins and gender must be taken into consideration. Appropriate health care must be

readily available with the minimum of red tape. A person's disability should not prejudice the treatment of related or non-related conditions. Privacy must be respected at all times.

- C.6.3 Medical doctors, nurses and other health care professionals require ongoing training in all aspects of disability and an awareness of its implications for health care service providers.
- C.6.4 People are entitled to have access to information held on their behalf by the health service providers. This information should not be "owned", refused or held up on whatever grounds, and should be free of charge.
- C.6.5 Medical research must include informed consent and ethical considerations using supported decision making principles when appropriate.
- C.6.6 Health sector bodies should purchase 'transition' programmes to ensure that people returning to the community are able to do so with necessary environmental adaptations, equipment, community service and support.
- C.6.7 Health funded services must have an appropriate complaints procedure which is easy to access and of which all clients are informed.
- C.6.8 An independent advocate must be offered for support when receiving any health service.

C.7 Policy Statement - Income

DPA believes that:

All people have the right to an income adequate for them to live and participate in their community with dignity and self-respect.

- C.7.1 Everyone has the right to a basic income regardless of gender, status or impairment.
- C.7.2 Where it is patently obvious that any person is unable to secure the necessary income on his/her own behalf, there must be a system of income maintenance which ensures that the necessary income is available to that person.
- C.7.3 This system of income maintenance must be:
 - as fair and equitable as possible.
 - simple and obvious in its administration.
 - targeted directly at those persons it is intended to assist.
 - on a universal individual basis.
 - assist a person's movement, often gradually, into open employment
- C.7.4 The system must be based on the individual as the recipient unit.

- C.7.5 Any person incurring extra cost specifically due to disability or similar circumstances beyond their control, should be entitled to have their costs met by the government as of right. This income must be additional to any other income, because a disabled person should not be worse off financially due to disability, than a non-disabled person with the same income.
- C.7.6 Any abatement system must recognise the costs of disability, and not act as a barrier to entry into gradual open employment so that a person is not disadvantaged by their earned income.

C.8 Policy statement - Information

DPA believes that:

As far as possible disabled people should control their own lives. Available, accurate, relevant, understandable and timely information is the basis for informed consent and decision making.

- C.8.1 Information needs to be targeted at:

- disabled people and their families and whanau;
- service providers and
- the public at large through public awareness campaigns.

Public awareness campaigns to educate and inform the public on the needs and aspirations of disabled people are essential to raise community consciousness, by more people becoming involved in the disability community.

- C.8.2 There must be particular recognition of the information needs of those who cannot use standard means of communication. This includes people who have sensory disabilities, who have communication disabilities who use facilitative communication, or who are print disabled and where required assistance in using the information provided. Information must be available in a form accessible to individuals.

C.9 Policy Statement - Legislation

DPA believes that:

There is a strong and continuing obligation on Government to provide appropriate and enforceable legislation to advance the rights, opportunities and participation of disabled people in our New Zealand society.

- C.9.1 Good legislation must provide the appropriate legal basis for the implementation of full participation and equal opportunities for disabled people in all of society's activities.

- C.9.2 All levels of existing legislation which prevent full participation and equality must be eliminated.
- C.9.3 Government has an obligation to consult with disabled people during the drafting of all legislation (including the drafting of regulations and other subordinate legislation) which affects their interests. There must be a reasonable length of time for the consultative process.

C.10 Policy Statement – Recreation

DPA believes that:

All persons have the right to seek and gain fulfilment in life through participation in recreation, leisure or sporting activities in their community.

- C.10.1 Co-operation and liaison with statutory and voluntary agencies authorities at the local and regional level in the promotion of recreational opportunities for disabled people should take place.
- C.10.2 For those persons who are not able to gain employment, enjoyment of life through participation in recreation, leisure and sporting activities is particularly important.
- C.10.3 Disabled people should not be prohibited from participation in their chosen recreational, social or sporting activities because of architectural or attitudinal barriers. They should have the choice of integrated recreation.
- C.10.4 Greater emphasis should be placed on full participation in recreation, leisure and sporting activities through the education system.

C.11 Policy Statement - Religion

DPA believes that:

Disabled people must have equal opportunity to fully participate in the religious and/or spiritual life of their community.

- C.11.1 Meeting places must comply with the Building Code and be fully accessible.
- C.11.2 Communication must be in an appropriate form to enable all people to fully participate.

D. Environmental policy

Key principles

DPA believes that:

Disabled people must be enabled to live in the least restrictive environment. This means a setting which is the most socially, emotionally, psychologically, culturally, educationally, spiritually and vocationally appropriate as determined by the person. DPA recommends the inclusion of health and safety standards as well as barrier free standards.

In determining the least restrictive environment, the highest consideration must be given to upholding the individual's human and civil rights.

D.1 Policy Statement – Access for everyone

DPA believes that:

Everyone benefits from the human right of disabled people to participate with dignity in the normal activities and processes of life in the community. To this end disabled people must have access to:

- the physical environment**
- communication**
- information**
- services.**

D.1.1 DPA will:

- a) Encourage increased education and public awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities in employment, recreation, leisure, social and sporting matters.
- b) Monitor and make recommendations about the updating and implementation of legislation and practices to achieve the optimum approachability, accessibility and usability in architectural and environmental design.
- c) Promote the participation of commerce, industry, statutory and non-statutory agencies, individuals, territorial Authorities, local bodies and central government in the provision of an accessible environment for everyone.

D.2 Policy Statement - Accommodation

DPA believes that:

Accommodation support and housing policies must actively promote the right to human dignity and the right of the individual to choose their own lifestyle and accommodation options.

- D.2.1 Disabled people should be enabled to afford to live in a manner which reflects their choice of lifestyle within their chosen community.
- D.2.2 Accommodation support and housing services must provide a wide variety of alternatives and there should be no discrimination in accommodation services on the basis of impairment.
- D.2.3 Accommodation options must allow for advocacy services, including encouragement of self-advocacy, citizen advocacy and group advocacy. There must be clear avenues for mediation and open communication between users and providers of accommodation services.
- D.2.4 Accommodation services must promote individual assistance to disabled people, in contrast with institutional management practices which treat people as if they are the same.
- D.2.5 Disabled people must be able to remain within their own communities and share in an ordinary lifestyle with access to necessary support services when required throughout their lives.
- D.2.6 Disabled people who live in a community-based complex with non-disabled people must not become isolated through lack of access to the environment within that complex.
- D.2.7 Disabled people who live in residential care are entitled to the same privacy and respect as in private accommodation, with the right to full participation in the wider community.

D.3 Policy Statement - Equipment

DPA believes that:

Disabled people have a right to equipment on an equitable basis that provides them with a lifestyle appropriate to their needs by:

- D.3.1 Ensuring that the environment and its products cater for their needs.

- D.3.2 Promoting a national research and development facility which provides information and expertise to disabled people and associated professionals and caregivers.
- D.3.3 Ensuring that wherever possible preference should be given to equipment that meets an appropriate New Zealand Standard or TELARC accreditation.
- D.3.4 Encouraging the development of a viable and innovative New Zealand equipment manufacturing industry.
- D.3.5 Giving free and unrestricted access to a comprehensive equipment service including information.
- D.3.6 Ensuring that the assessment and allocation of equipment is timely and reflects the needs and aspirations of the person.
- D.3.7 Ensuring that equipment provision, allocation and use including maintenance is the subject of plain English contracts.
- D.3.8 Ensuring that the funding for equipment is available in an equitable manner.
- D.3.9 Ensuring programmes for the provision of equipment are nationally monitored to ensure equity, adequacy, effectiveness and consistency.
- D.3.10 Ensuring the right to equipment by disabled people has its foundation in law.
- D.3.11 Ensuring training programmes are readily available so that disabled people are able to use equipment effectively and efficiently.

D.4 Policy Statement - Transport

DPA believes that:

Transport is a basic right of all people. Recognising this, Government must ensure that all forms of transport and its infrastructure, both in the community and nationally, must be fully accessible to disabled people.

- D.4.1 Access to existing and planned future transportation must:
 - a) Cater for all disabled people.
 - b) Be affordable and equitably costed.
 - c) Be barrier free.
 - d) Ensure that carriage and waivers of liability are not denied.
- D.4.2 Parking provisions for people with mobility impairments must be retained or enhanced, now and when "green" anti-car measures are implemented in central cities, by giving these parking provisions proper legislative standing.

- D.4.3 Driver testing systems must be updated to take account of an ageing population, who may not recognise increasing impairment of vision or other abilities.

“Accessible Journey” as defined by the Human Rights Accessible Journey report.

E. Action Policy

KEY PRINCIPLES

DPA believes that:

There is strength in unity and that the DPA can help facilitate the unity of effort needed to bring about changes for disabled people.

DPA with the support of member agencies and individuals will take any action necessary to strengthen the self-determination of disabled people.

E.1 Policy Statement – Advocacy and awareness

DPA believes that:

Self-Advocacy is the strongest and most effective form of advocacy and therefore DPA supports efforts by disabled people to promote assertiveness and self-confidence.

The primary role of agencies representing disabled people is to advocate the rights of disabled people.

- E.1.1 Government should fund the training of disabled people in self-advocacy skills, in order to enhance self-responsibility and self-esteem.
- E.1.2 All disabled people have the right to an advocate of their choice to investigate their situations, to speak on their behalf and to assist in those situations where necessary.
- E.1.3 All committees and other decision-making bodies which are involved with disabled people should have members who are disabled people.
- E.1.4 DPA as a national advocate for the rights and need of disabled people, will promote advocacy through its Regional Assemblies, Organisational Members, general membership and political forums.
- E.1.5 Disability awareness programmes must be promoted throughout the community to inform society about the rights, needs, potential and contribution to society, of disabled people.
- E.1.6 Any person who is unable to speak, particularly those in situations of supported living and care, should be accorded the right to ask for contact

with a named representative on a regular basis if they so choose. The responsibility for contact to rest with the representative. The frequency of such contact to be decided by the person.

E.2 Policy Statement – Organisational members

DPA believes that:

Its organisational membership is an integral and important part of the disability sector that DPA represents. As service providers and supporters of disabled people DPA recognises the important role Organisational Members play and will monitor Organisational Members to ensure that they are upholding the philosophy and policies of DPA.

- E.2.1 With the support and input of Organisational Members DPA can actively lobby regional and national decision-makers in the area of service delivery.
- E.2.2 DPA is sensitive to the diversity and responsibility of its Organisational Members. These Members have wide-ranging concerns which vary according to their resources and their particular community support.

E.3 Policy Statement – Ethnic Minorities

DPA believes that:

There are issues that concern ethnic minorities which often inhibit or prevent their choosing a lifestyle that is appropriate to their cultural heritage, and will work towards achieving positive responses to these issues.

- E.3.1 DPA recognises that cultural diversity creates specific needs for disabled people who come to New Zealand from other countries, religions and cultures.
- E.3.2 DPA supports efforts to retain the heritage of all ethnic groups providing that does not diminish the value of the disabled individual.
- E.3.3 DPA recognises that ethnic groups have much of cultural value that will enhance New Zealand society.
- E.3.4 DPA recognises that there is a need to raise community awareness about the difficulties faced by disabled people from ethnic minorities.

E.4 Policy Statement – International relations

DPA believes that:

It has a responsibility to participate in the international community on behalf of New Zealanders who have disabilities to ensure involvement in sharing of new developments and to promote its aims.

- E.4.1 As an affiliated national organisation to Rehabilitation International and Disabled Peoples' International, DPA has a responsibility to be actively involved in the affairs of the world bodies, by maintaining strong relationships with them and their Asia and Pacific Regional Committee.
- E.4.2 DPA will encourage participation of its memberships in other international forums thereby benefiting disabled people in New Zealand.
- E.4.3 Exchange of information must be a two way process internationally and within New Zealand, and DPA has a responsibility to convey and disseminate information gained from or useful to its international networks.
- E.4.4 DPA should support the endeavours of disabled people in other countries, particularly developing countries.
- E.4.5 The Government should use DPA's expertise in all aspects of implementing the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- E.4.6 The Government must support other countries on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

E.5 Policy Statement – Older disabled people

DPA believes that:

With the increasing numbers of older people in the New Zealand population, and a corresponding increase in the number of older disabled people, it is appropriate for DPA to establish an appropriate policy, to guide any statement DPA may make or any position we may take.

- E.5.1 Disability can affect people of all ages.
- E.5.2 Disability within the context of ageing requires DPA to link with organisations concerned with older people.
- E.5.3 The government must dispense with its category of "age-related disability" in relation to service delivery to disabled people.

E.6 Policy Statement - Peace

DPA endorses the International Peace Statement made by Disabled Peoples' International at its meeting in June, 1982, at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. To the end:

- E.6.1 DPA's members should support and participate in organisations concerned with peace, recognising that many people around the world are disabled as the result of war.
- E.6.2 Disabled people must make their voices heard within the peace movement so as to promote a holistic approach to peace issues.
- E.6.3 DPA must encourage the halt of production of any military device which has the potential to cause severe disability or death.

E.7 Policy Statement – People who are homebound

DPA believes that:

Disabled people who are confined to their home or institutions should be encouraged and assisted to take part in their community, and have access to all information available to the wider community.

- E.7.1 People who are homebound for whatever reason have the right to participate in and contribute to their community.
- E.7.2 Research must focus on ways to minimise the immobility and isolation of disabled people.
- E.7.3 All disabled people must be empowered and enabled to take responsibility for decisions and choices in all areas of their lives.
- E.7.4 Actively pursue measures to increase the uptake of appropriate assistive technologies and internet access for disabled people.

E.8 Policy Statement - Prevention

DPA believes that:

Preventative health care and accident prevention are priority issues that require ongoing promotion.

- E.8.1 DPA has an important responsibility to actively promote research and specific programmes aimed at the prevention of disability. However, DPA will oppose the use of medical technology to discriminate against unborn babies, children, and older disabled people.
- E.8.2 DPA will raise the awareness of both professionals and public to those areas of the created environment that produce the highest rate of accidents e.g. home, factories and roads.
- E.8.3 DPA will support all efforts to protect the physical environment and our foodstuffs from chemical and other contamination.

- E.8.4 DPA will support education aimed at the proper use of medication
- E.8.5 DPA will promote the provision of subsidized access to the most effective medication available.
- E.8.5 DPA will support moves to ensure that the use of alcohol and other behaviour altering substances are used in a responsible manner by all.
- E.8.6 DPA will urge people to seek early attention for any significant injury, however sustained, to avoid the increasing effects of disability

E.9 Policy Statement – Regional assemblies

DPA believes that:

The Assembly's strength lies in the effectiveness of its Regional Assemblies, which monitor issues relevant to disabled people and ensure that they are addressed at regional and, when appropriate, national level.

DPA will continue to encourage greater cooperation between Regional Assemblies.

- E.9.1 Regional Assemblies provide an essential link to the community at large, enabling the disability perspective to be consulted and promoted in a co-ordinated and authoritative manner.
- E.9.2 Regional Assemblies should promote co-ordination and co-operation between DPA's Organisational Members, and other service providers, at a local level.
- E.9.3 Regional Assemblies should be encouraged to seek partnership plans with local Organisational Members.
- E.9.4 Regional Assemblies should provide a local forum for all members, Individual and Organisational to discuss, promote and take action on issues of importance and concern to this sector of the community.
- E.9.5 Regional Assemblies will advocate on behalf of all disabled people at a local level of interest and concern, by utilising existing networks and/or the resources of DPA's members, both Organisational and Individual.
- E.9.6 Regional Assemblies will encourage Individual, Family and Organisational Membership of DPA. Everyone in New Zealand should have access to a Regional Assembly.

E.10 Policy Statement - Research

DPA believes that:

There are many issues in the field of disability that require indepth study so as to enhance the quality of life of disabled people. DPA will encourage such research and provide information as practicable.

- E.10.1 DPA will continue to promote and implement such research as it deems necessary in the furtherance of its aims and objects.
- E.10.2 All research must be done according to legislation, identified national standards and to an international quality of excellence.
- E.10.3 DPA will encourage the collection of appropriate statistics on disabled people, through the inclusion of disabled people in the Census, so that accurate planning, policy making and service delivery can be achieved.

E.11 Policy Statement - Women

DPA believes that:

There are issues that relate specifically to disabled women which prevent them from exercising choice and attaining social and economic independence in the home, the workplace, and the community. In conjunction with the Ministry of Womens Affairs, DPA will promote community awareness of the issues facing disabled women.

- E.11.1 Women should not be discriminated against because of the roles they choose.
- E.11.2 Women who are responsible for the care of others must be given access to whatever services are required to enable them to function effectively
- E.11.3 Disabled women, have the right to participate in the making of decisions about their own lifestyles, fertility and sexuality.
- E.11.4 DPA supports the implementation of awareness programmes so that disabled women are viewed in a positive and dignified way.
- E.11.5 DPA supports the collection of information and statistical data on disabled women - and its free availability to them.
- E.11.6 DPA will advocate for the needs of disabled women to be included in any report or delegation relating to women generally.
- E.11.7 DPA supports the elimination of sexism from all aspects of its activities.
- E.11.8 DPA supports action to eliminate sexual harassment.
- E.11.9 DPA recognises the importance of pay equity, and supports affirmative action programmes which promote the status of disabled women.
- E.11.10 DPA supports action to eliminate violence towards women within the home or community.

E.12 Policy Statement – Youth

DPA believes:

Young people, irrespective of disability, can grow and learn. The years as children and adolescents should be fun, giving a positive self-identity and allow what is necessary to lead full and active lives.

Therefore, DPA supports and advocates that:

- E.12.1. The needs and aspirations of disabled young people are included in any report/legislation/delegation relating to young people generally.
- E.12.2 Accommodation options be developed to allow young disabled people to live in as they choose.
- E.12.3 Opportunities for disabled young people to explore and promote their positive self-identity exist.
- E.12.4 Disabled young people have the right to participate in the decisions made about their lives and control over their lives.
- E.12.5 Disabled young people receive age appropriate and meaningful education and information on sexuality and relationships. All mainstream sexuality and relationship programmes include our needs and perspectives.
- E.12.6 All agencies that support young people, work collaboratively to ensure their services are accessible, appropriate and welcoming to disabled young people and their families.
- E.12.7 Disabled young people are given opportunities and encouraged to take "dignified risk".
- E.12.8 There be an improvement in support to disabled young people during transition between early childhood education, primary school, secondary school, tertiary education and employment/vocation options.
- E.12.9 Violence or risk of abuse towards young people be eliminated.
- E.12.10 Young people have access to positive role models.
- E.12.11 Suicide prevention programmes meet the specific needs and deal with the identity issues of disabled young people particularly in view of the high rate of suicide amongst disabled young people.