



## **Thames Coromandel Disability Strategy**

Good morning Your Worship and Councillors

CCS Disability Action is pleased to be here today to support the adoption of your Disability Strategy.

17% of your community live with some type of impairment. We are diverse, varied and each of us has a unique experience of life, as we all live with different impairments. Ensuring that everyone can participate in society, on an equal basis with others, requires openness, trust, generosity of spirit, respect and collaboration.

At the launch of the Convention Coalition's Systemic Monitoring Report in mid October Minister Turia said, 'there can be no greater mission in my mind, than to keep our focus firmly set on the world that disabled people and their families want to live in – a world free of discrimination: a world which we can all be proud to inhabit.'

It is now 5 years since the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was ratified by New Zealand. Accessibility and inclusion are very much to the forefront of the disability community's mind.

It is vital that disabled people are not excluded, prevented from participating in the everyday life of their family and friends by design and service delivery options that only cater to walking, seeing, hearing people whose thinking is unimpaired. Universal design principles should be an integral part of all Council planning, design, implementation and operational processes.

CCS Disability Action would like to encourage staff and the whole of council to continue the journey they have so successfully begun, by including disabled people, talking to them and listening to their responses you will be able to identify barriers to disabled people's participation in their communities and move towards an inclusive more accessible future for everyone living in communities within the Thames Coromandel District.

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