



Making Te Tai Tokerau Accessible

Guidance booklet 2022



This document was put together by the Councils of Te Tai Tokerau (Northland). When you see the word ‘we’ - it means the following Councils:

- Northland Regional Council (NRC)
- Whangarei District Council (WDC)
- Far North District Council (FNDC) and
- Kaipara District Council (KDC)



For more information about what councils do and the role of local government, view the following posters online or in this pack.

What councils do

What we do - Northland Regional Council

This will help you to understand what we can and can't do to help make Te Tai Tokerau more accessible.



How to use this document



Read this document before moving onto the feedback booklet.



You can use this document by yourself or in a supportive group.



Your group can ask for help from council staff or a facilitator – a person that helps a group to work things out together.

This document is also available in these formats:

- Easy Read
- NZSL
- Large Print and plain text
- Te Reo Māori

Contact us to get a copy.

Contact details can be found at the back of this booklet.






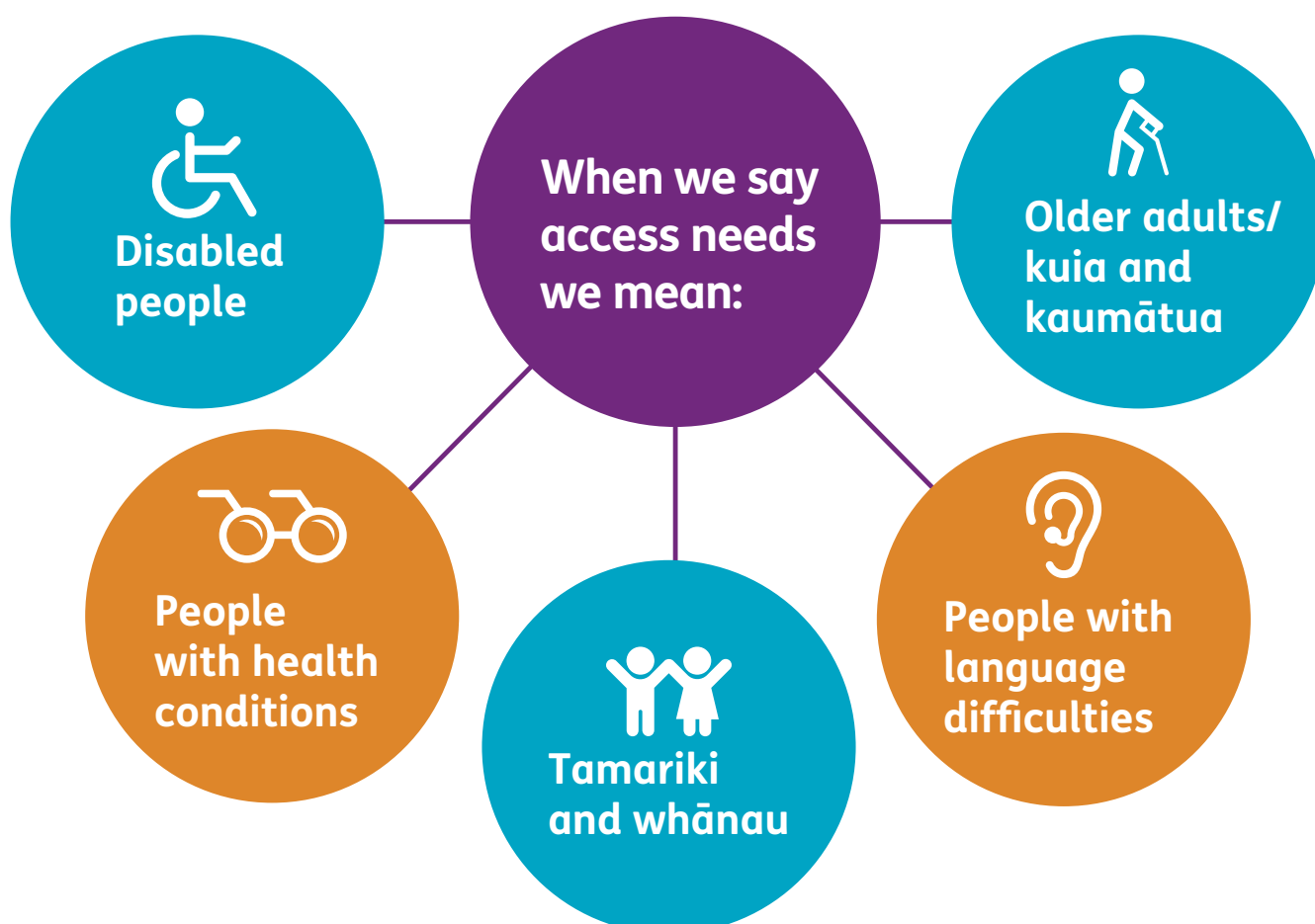
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What do we mean by accessible?

We understand an accessible community to be where everyone:

-  has rights,
-  is treated with dignity and respect, and
-  can access all places, activities, services and information easily and appropriately.



We will use the following terms:

- People with disabilities
- Disabled people
- Tāngata whaikaha Māori
- People with access needs
- Older adults/kaumātua and kuia
- Rōpū or group

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ has stated that both “**people with disabilities**” and “**disabled people**” are acceptable terms and can be used interchangeably. Individuals will have their own preference.

Tāngata whaikaha Māori means Māori with disabilities. Whaikaha means ‘to have ability’ or ‘to be enabled’.





“Disabled people report that local government has a greater impact on their daily lives than central government.”

Source: Office for Disability Issues November 2019.



Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) has the highest rates of disability and impairments in New Zealand.

Source: CCS Disability Action, 2019. The state of wellbeing and equality for disabled people, their families, and whānau.

Councils in Te Tai Tokerau want to make our region a better place to live, work and play for **everyone**.

We need to develop a plan about how to make the lives of people with access needs, including disabled people, in our region better.

We need your help and input to make Te Tai Tokerau communities **accessible** for everyone.

What do we already know?

Te Tai Tokerau has the **a high rate of disabilities** at

29%

compared to the rest of New Zealand which has a rate of 24%



In Tai Tokerau

19%

have **physical impairments**



and

7%

have **learning difficulties**



Māori have the **highest rate of disability** at

26%



36%

of Te Tai Tokerau's **population is Māori**, one of the highest.



35%

of disabled people are **over 65 years old**

Te Tai Tokerau has a **high rate of older adults** at over

19%

compared with 15% in NZ overall.



12%

of adults in Te Tai Tokerau have **low literacy levels**



Many people in Tai Tokerau experience hardship and we know that this is both a cause and consequence of disability.

Source 1: The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 (NZ Disability Strategy).

Source 2: Census 2018 Stats NZ

Source 3: Disability Survey 2013.

What are we trying to do?

With your help, we are developing a plan for all councils in Te Tai Tokerau with a shared vision, values and outcomes to improve accessibility and the experiences of people with access needs. The plan will identify key steps that will allow us to work together to improve the experiences of residents in the region.

The plan will talk about what we can do to make Te Tai Tokerau more:



Inclusive

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



Accessible

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

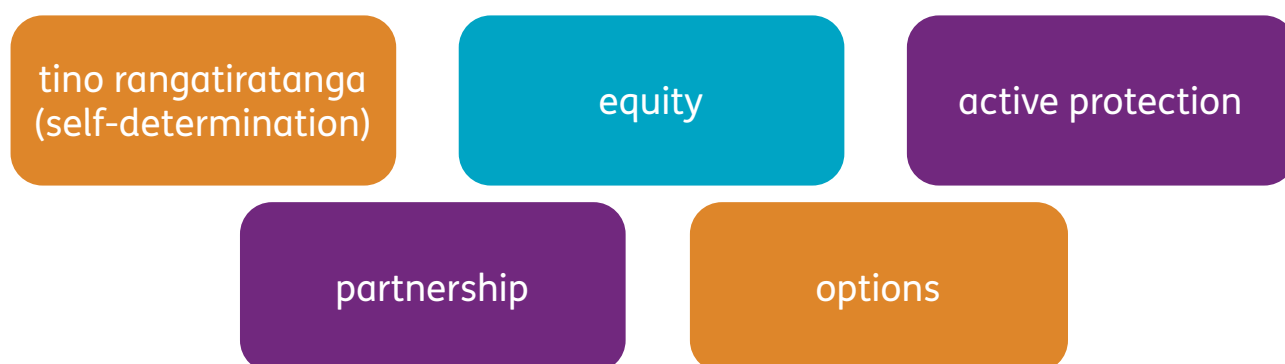
This might be:

- A place or a building
- Transport
- A service
- Information
- A website
- An event.

The plan will be underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) and the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This is the founding document of New Zealand. It is an agreement between Māori and the Crown. The agreement contains the following principles:



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention)

The Convention is an international treaty identifying the rights of disabled people. The eight guiding principles aim to ensure that disabled people enjoy the same human rights as everyone else and that they can participate fully in society by receiving the same opportunities as others. New Zealand signed this document in 2008.

New Zealand Disability Strategy

This guides the work of the government on disability issues. The strategy follows both the Convention and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles. It also has another principle - ensuring disabled people are involved in decision-making that impacts them.

What are we asking you to do?



▶ Check out the feedback booklet for examples.



We want you to let us know what you think in the way that best suits you.

This could be in groups with your whānau, marae, local disability or support rōpū.

We can arrange for a facilitator to come and help your group with your feedback. Or you could ask a staff member to come to your meeting to listen. You could share your feedback in a video or you could use see-flow.co.nz for videos using New Zealand Sign Language.

You or your rōpū can complete your feedback at your own pace. You might want to hold two or more meetings so that the whole group has the chance to share.

▶ Check out the Feedback Booklet for more information.

There are other options that might better suit your needs, such as a public workshop, or digital tools. Get in touch with us for more options or go to accessiblenorthland.mysocialpinpoint.com/accessible.



What you have told us

In late 2020 we asked people with access needs about how accessible they think their local council and area is.



Only **19%** of you said that your council is **good or excellent** at supporting accessibility.



We want this number to be higher.

Your responses told us that the following were important to you:

Access to information and services

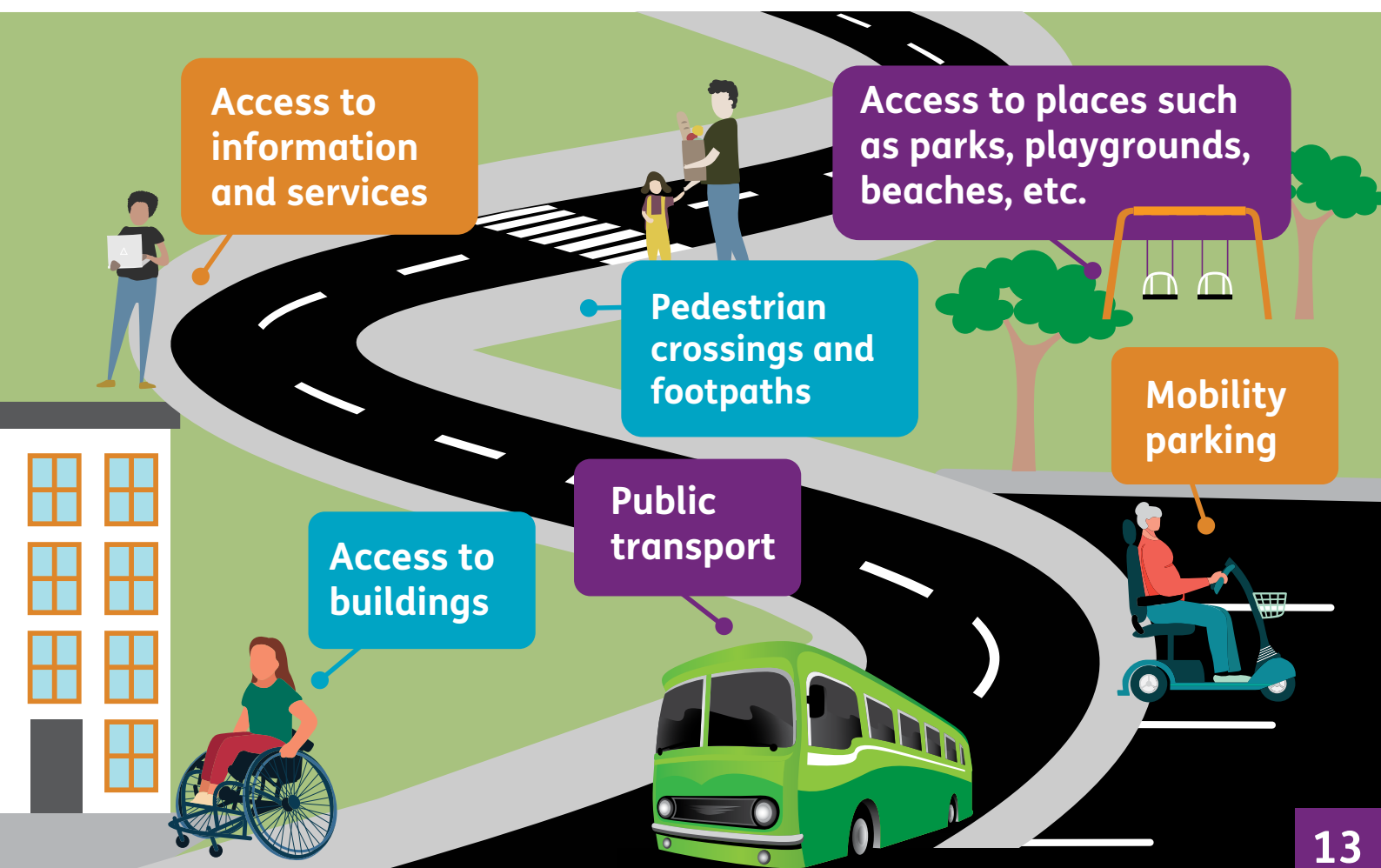
Access to places such as parks, playgrounds, beaches, etc.

Pedestrian crossings and footpaths

Mobility parking

Access to buildings

Public transport



You also told us the following:

- the plan needs to be easy to access and simple to follow
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga Māori principles should be included
- that you are tired of giving the same feedback or complaint repeatedly
- some people cannot access or adequately use the digital world.

This information will help draft the plan.

There were also many comments about things outside of what councils do. However, we are very happy to take that feedback and direct it to the right place. For example, we will share the feedback about hospital parking to the hospital itself.



What happens next?

Collect Feedback

Your feedback will be collected and considered by a group of selected people with access needs to review.

Write Draft Plan

Once the key content has been agreed upon, we will write a draft plan.

Consult Councillors

We will ask the elected Council members what they think as well.

Consultation

We will check with the access needs community and the wider community that we have got it right.

Adopt Plan

Each council adopts the strategy through their own decision making processes.

Contact us

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📍 There is a [map online](#) or in this pack, showing the different Council boundaries in Te Tai Tokerau.