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[The important role of disabled allies](#)

Plus: Why we hīkoi mō Te Tiriti ● ○ ●

[The D*List](#)

Nov 15



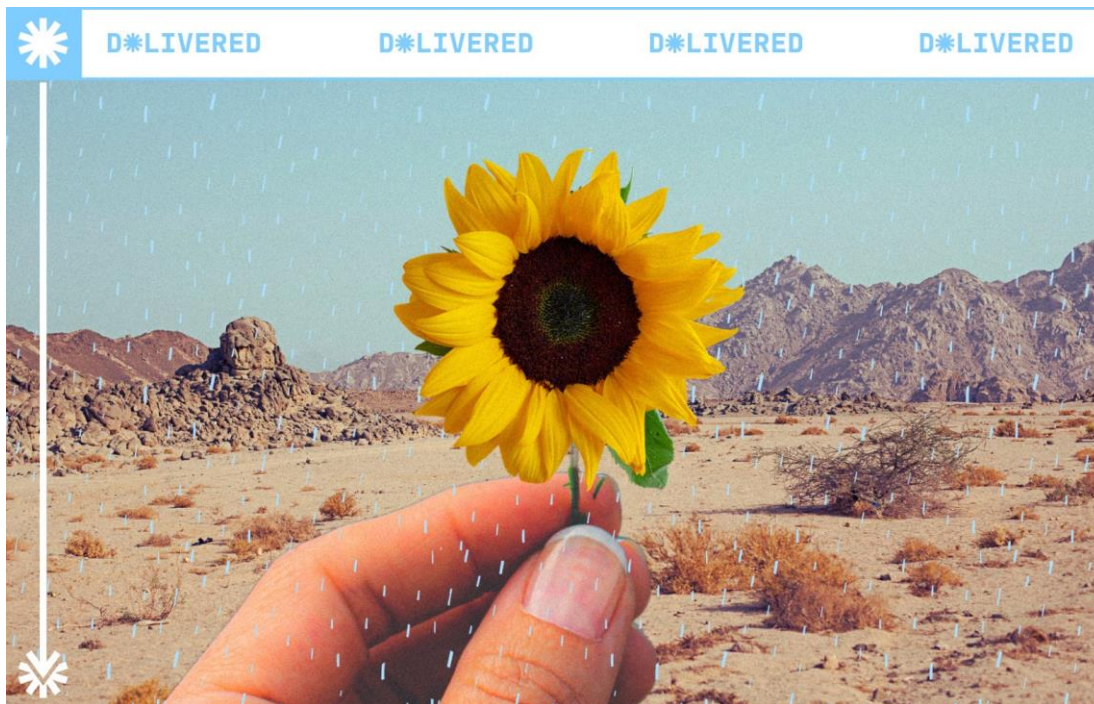
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E te iwi, it's been a big week. This week's newsletter offers us moments of reflection and opportunities to create change together.

On Tuesday, the Government delivered a long-overdue **apology to survivors of Abuse in Care**. And across the motu this week, tens of thousands of people joined the **hīkoi mō Te Tiriti** - including many people in our communities. As part of a [piece we published this week](#), Dr Robbie Francis Watene shared with us why she joined the hīkoi:

"I believe Te Tiriti is something to protect, to nourish, to embrace, and to celebrate. It is a cloak that wraps around us and protects us all - both Māori and non-Māori."

If you didn't make it to the hīkoi but are keen to support the kaupapa, there's still plenty of opportunity to show your tautoko for Te Tiriti. This Sunday at The D*List Community Hub in Tāmaki Makaurau, we're hosting an **accessible banner and sign-making workshop**. Check out our [Facebook event page](#), or scroll down the newsletter for more details.



At Parliament this week for the **Abuse in Care apology**, whether met with relief or cynicism, the message was clear among survivors: **actions speak louder than words**.

While we anticipate sustained political change, survivor [Gary Williams MNZM calls on disabled people who have not been in care to be allies](#) . He told Olivia Shivas that many of the historical issues people faced then **still exist now**.

A lot of disabled people don't understand the power and control they are under because it becomes "normalised", Williams said. "Disabled people need to choose their battles," he says. "Although it seems wrong and a bit of injustice at the time, you just have to suck it up and move on and save your energy for a greater battle. Non-disabled people often don't have to act in compromises."



IN THE NEWS

👏 There is a **critical shortage of trilingual reo Māori interpreters**, [The Spinoff reports](#). According to Deaf Aotearoa, fewer than a dozen of the 120 certified sign language interpreters in Aotearoa can translate both te reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language.

👏 Five survivors of abuse in care [shared their thoughts on the apology](#) to RNZ, all of them emphasising that for this apology to mean or change anything, the Government needs to do the work.

💖 [VisAble](#), a recently launched disabled person-led organisation fighting to end abuse against disabled people, says the apology marks an important step for disabled community but **true change requires lasting action**. Its chief executive, Paul Gibson, says: "a genuine apology must come with a **commitment to prevent such abuse** from ever happening again... It must acknowledge and address the systemic factors that enabled this harm... **abuse of disabled people still continues today**." They've put together [eight actions](#) to enable New Zealand to move forward and create a future free from abuse for all disabled people.

♿ The **International Day of Disabled Persons** is coming up on Tuesday 3rd December. Each year's theme is promoted with a really long name, like last year's: *Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world*. This year's theme is **Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future**, another long name, which Jonny Wilkinson, CEO of Tiaho Trust, [contextualises for us in Aotearoa](#).

*Decisions impacting disability support services were made rapidly, with paltry consultation, potentially disempowering the very people these services aim to support. So, amplifying the leadership of disabled people, has to be the way forward, and the sound system needs to be a grunty one. Disabled leaders have a **vested moral and practical interest in creating sustainable solutions**, that work for them, their families and the rest of society.*



OVER ON THE D*LIST

● ○ ● As the **hīkoi mō Te Tiriti convoy** from Te Rerenga Wairua is making its way to Parliament, we collected a range of perspectives from people across our communities [why they attended](#). Here's what they had to say:

Patti Poa says she is thinking about the past, present and future generations. "As tāngata whenua/people of the land and whānau hauā/Māori disabled, Te Tiriti/The Treaty and the hīkoi is a part of what we live every day as Māori." She says participating in the hīkoi is about connecting to her ancestors. "I thrive today because of the taonga/treasures passed down to me by my tupuna/ancestors, so I want to create a better world for our mokopuna/children."

Pieta Bouma is participating to send a message to the Government that she won't tolerate their divisive and racist tactics. "I am joining this hikoi because I feel so grateful to be able to share this beautiful land with tāngata whenua, so I want to **fight to protect the document that makes this peaceful coexistence in this beautiful country possible.**"



YOUR TO-DO LIST

📌 **Let's get together for Te Tiriti!** Join us this **Sunday 17th November, 10am-1pm** at our **accessible banner and sign-making workshop** at our community hub in Kingsland, Tāmaki Makaurau. You don't need any expertise to take part and we'll help you out if you need assistance to make signs/banners too! We'll provide snacks and all the things we need to create the banners and signs 🎨 🗣️ [RSVP here.](#)




The D*List kaimahi and friends proud to rep tāngata whaikaha in the hikoi mō Te Tiriti over the Auckland Harbour Bridge. (From left: Ella Sargison, Red Nicholson, Eda Tang, Michael Telford)


You can get to **The D*List, 322 New North Road** by car, bus or train (we're a 10-minute walk from the Kingsland train station). If you have any questions or need any support - such as transport - please contact our community hub manager Ella. Email ella@thedlist.co.nz or text/call 027 335 2459.

Accessibility notes:


- Plenty of uncovered parking on site
- 1 x non-gendered accessible bathroom
- The width of the entry door is 79cm
- We will have two large air purifiers running all day, and lots of natural ventilation
- Wear a mask if it's accessible for you to do so
- NZSL interpreter present
- Let us know if you have dietary requirements so we can ensure we have the right kind of snacks for everyone!

 **Disability Support Services (DSS) is looking for feedback** on how services should be best provided in the future. While we might not all agree with decisions made or how the survey is being undertaken, this is an opportunity for us to provide input. [You can complete the survey here](#) and accessible formats are available. The survey closes next Friday 22nd November. If you've run out of spoons to give feedback, [the team at Awhi have a template you can copy here](#).

He whakatauaki hei whakakapi:

He purapura ora, he māra tipu. 

(A seedling that despite being trampled upon and losing a part of itself still has infinite potential to grow and generate)

Mauri ora e te whānau 

Eda

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