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Moments of disability joy amidst the gloom

Plus: News, events and Whaikaha clarify funding changes with new Q+A

THE D*LIST

APR 5



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Kia ora rā! Hope you all had a replenishing long Easter weekend. Any accessible easter egg hunts? I spent the weekend in Ōtautahi with whānau, where fellow D*List kaimahi Red was also hanging out and managed to [sneak into a certain local gathering](#) 🙈

This week I was fortunate to gather with other editors in the media industry at the stunning [Te Mahurehure Marae](#). The space has excellent accessibility - I had to take some photos of these beautiful ramps and share them 😊 As always, we love seeing examples of good accessibility in your region - reply to this [email](#) or send us a [DM on Instagram](#)!

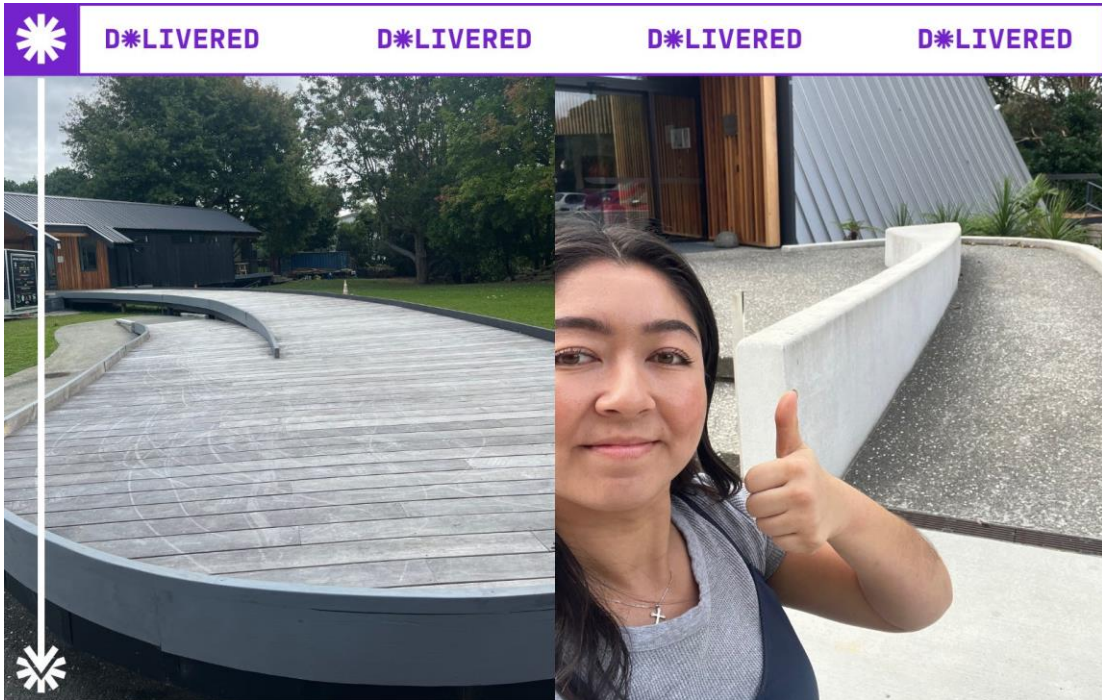


Image description: A collage image of two ramps - a wooden curved ramp, and Olivia does a selfie and thumbs up in front of a concrete ramp outside the marae.

Just today, Whaikaha has [posted an update on its website to clarify the changes to disability funding](#). In a list of 22 new and updated questions, responses are given to community feedback. But while clarity is always useful, bigger questions still remain: How long will these changes remain in place? Will flexibility return at some point? And what do those of us affected do in the meantime? If you have thoughts on any of this, reply to this email and let us know.

This week we heard from one of our *D*List Delivered* readers with some WFH advice, in line with our [tech-themed focus over on *The D*List*](#). Caroline said she loves her [adjustable laptop stand](#) which helps her get the perfect level for her screen, no matter which part of the house she's working from. She also recommends [Loop Earplugs](#) to help block out background noise so she can concentrate on her tasks. **Thanks for the tip Caroline!** ❤️

IN THE NEWS

🧠 Speaking of tech hacks, turns out controlling your computer with a brain is ... a very real thing? Our team were feeling pretty 🤖 🤖 after seeing the latest out of the [Neuralink](#) lab. Check it out:



🎸 Going to **concerts** aren't always the most accessible and equitable experience, so the team at [Spectrum Care](#) are growing the [Gig Buddies programme](#) which aims to match a disabled person with a volunteer buddy, who have a similar music tastes, to attend concerts together. You can [check out 1News' video](#) to find out more.

🗣️ Disabled folks in Ōtautahi gathered in the city last week to **protest** the changes to the [disability funding rules](#). Protest organiser Jordan Langley told [The Press](#) the changes brought "shock and distress". "We don't think this is the right call to be made. There's a lot of people out there who really just don't know what to do after that announcement," Langley said.

🎬 Director [Paula Whetu Jones](#) has written about turning her real-life story of spinal cord injury into a new television show. In [The Spinoff](#), she said: "**Spinal Destination** is a candid, graphic and explicit look at losing what most of us take for granted. It's a dark comedy, bordering on gallows humour, in which a group of individuals with only one thing in common try to navigate new lives, new rules and new broken bodies in a world that so readily discards

broken. It highlights our struggles, our triumphs, and our fears, which at times are mountainous. Because we all know how hard it is to get up a mountain... especially in a wheelchair.”

✿ As a [StarJam](#) kid myself, it was sad to hear the **charity might shut down** due to a lack of funding. But amazingly, [they have fundraised more than \\$150,000](#) in just a few days to fund their musical workshops, meaning their awesome mahi can continue.



YOUR TO-DO LIST

🗣️ It was great to see Creative New Zealand launch its first [Accessibility Policy and Action Plan](#). Led by disabled people, the plan outlines the ways it will work inclusively for all New Zealanders. [Check it out in its various accessible formats here.](#)

🎤 [Access Matters Aotearoa's](#) new web series, [Kōrero for Change](#), is launching with a webinar next Wednesday 10 April at 9-11am focusing on **Media and Communication**. Featuring a line up of panelists and speakers from across media, academia and mediators from the disability sector to help steer the conversation, this event aims to bring people together to delve into discussions surrounding ableism and promote accessibility in the media landscape. You can download the full programme as [PDE](#), [Word Doc](#) or [Large Print](#) and [RSVP here](#).

📍 [SAMS](#) and [TAMA](#) will be visiting the **Hawkes Bay** and **West Auckland** to facilitate hui aimed at assisting disability community-led leadership, informed by the Enabling Good Lives approach and principles. This hui is an open invitation to anyone, disabled people and their whānau. Mēnā e pirangi hui-māori, kua e māhara ki te kōrero mai, nō reira nau mai haere mai.

Hawkes Bay:

- 10 April 9-11am, Camberley Community Centre, 703 Kiwi Street, Hastings
- 10 April 1-3pm, Taradale Town Hall, 8 Meeanee Road, Napier

West Auckland

- 17 April 6-8pm, Te Manawa, Kokiri Room, 11 Kohuhu Lane, Westgate
- 18 April 12-2pm, Hub West, 26 Corban Ave, Henderson

You can register your interest to attend via **SAMS** email: egl@sams.org.nz
phone: **027 318 7258** or via **TAMA** email: info@tama.nz phone: **027 435 0244**

Signing off!

- Olivia and The D*List team



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