

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more



In pictures: Communities show up to protest funding cuts

Plus: New changes bring new questions, and Heartbreak High grapples with autistic representation

THE D*LIST

APR 26



[READ IN APP](#) ↗

Kia ora rā, over the wet and windy weekend some of our team headed into Tāmaki Makaurau to document the protest rally and [interview disabled people, whānau and allies about why they were there](#). With the recent cuts to funding, services and some people's aspirations, many stories in the mainstream media have portrayed our communities as needy, helpless, confused and objects of charity. But we know that is not the case - and being at the protest rally proved that stereotype to be the exact opposite 🙌



Image description: A collage of images of disabled people holding signs at a protest. The signs read: Return my rights, reverse the funding cut, flexible funding.

It was incredible that, despite the weather, there was so much resilience, awahi and support for each other. A word that kept coming up as I was speaking to people was **solidarity**. While we can't expect everyone to show up to everything, if there's something you feel strongly about, show up in whatever way makes sense for you. As you'll see from the photos, there's power in the visibility and mobilising as a rōpū - not just disabled people but also allies.

Here's a selection of snaps and [check out the full piece on The D*List](#).



Image description: A group of disabled and nondisabled people protest, with a man speaking into a megaphone in front of the crowd.



Image description: A collage of images from a protest. Two disabled women pose for a photo on Queen Street; one is using a powered-wheelchair and wears a face mask. Another photo shows a powered-wheelchair rolling next to signs that read: Nothing about us without us, and Stop the cuts.


This week, Whaikaha - the Ministry of Disabled People released **yet another update to the purchasing restrictions** recently imposed on people who receive flexible support funding. While this recent announcement restores degrees of flexibility for some people, it introduces a new red line that means many will be disadvantaged through no fault of their own. The update states

that existing support arrangements - such as paying for carers' travel costs - can continue so long as that commitment was made before March 18, 2024. [You can read Red's full analysis on The D*List here.](#)



IN THE NEWS


 [Penny Simmonds has been stripped of her role as Minister for Disability Issues.](#) During a media press conference this week, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said there were "major issues with the financial management of programmes run by Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled Peoples". [Louise Upston](#) will now be taking over the role of Minister for Disability Issues.

 This week, the BBC reported on a new software being tested for "**touchless computing**". Rather than requiring users to operate a mouse or keyboard, users can choose whatever facial expressions or physical gestures suit them and their needs. [You can read more about it here.](#)

 [Matthew Britz has become New Zealand's first Para table tennis participant](#) since the 1976 Toronto Paralympic Games. "To represent New Zealand in Paris is a dream come true," Britz told [1News](#). "I just wanted to play table tennis I never expected to make history especially this early, I'm not even in Paris yet it's pretty amazing and hope it can inspire other kids."



OVER ON THE D*LIST

 A new season of *Heartbreak High* was released on Netflix this month and [D*List contributor Devon Webb wrote about the importance of autistic representation on the show.](#) Quinni resonates deeply with my demographic, says Devon Webb. But season two of *Heartbreak High* sidelines her as a quirky sidekick spouting the occasional 'autistic quip'. [You can read the full review here.](#)

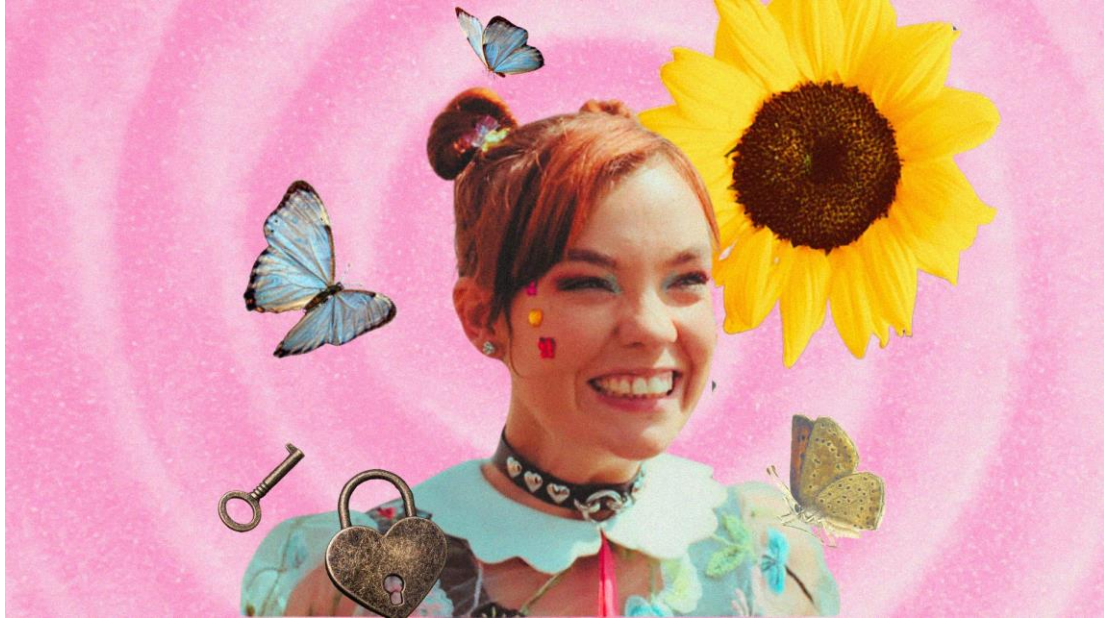


Image description: Quinni from Heartbreak High wears space buns and a cheesy grin. There are butterflies, a sunflower and lock and key surrounding her image against a pink background.

YOUR TO-DO LIST

📍 In Porirua this Sunday [there is a public meeting](#) regarding changes to disability support funding hosted by Labour's Disability Issues spokesperson Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Labour leader Chris Hipkins and Labour MP for Mana and finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds. It will be held from 2-4pm at Mana College School Hall. The venue is wheelchair accessible and NZSL interpreters will be present.

📅 Do you know of any events we should be attending and sharing with The D*List community? [Reply to this email](#) and let us know.

Ka kite anō, and have a great weekend!

- Olivia Shivas, Editor

✓ [Subscribed](#)



 RESTACK

© 2024 The D*List
PO Box 68372, Victoria St West, Auckland 1142
New Zealand
[Unsubscribe](#)

[Get the app](#) [Start writing](#)