



Quality of Life survey

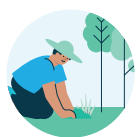
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt residents living with a disability

People living with a disability made up 16% (n = 91) of the Quality of Life Survey sample for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt (disabled residents make up approximately 6% of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt's population).

The 2022 survey asked respondents whether they experienced long-term and persistent difficulties with six abilities: seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps (mobility), remembering or concentrating (cognition), self-care, and communicating in their everyday language. Those who selected 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all' for at least one of these were classified as 'living with a disability'.

Those with a disability were generally positive about their quality of life, but less so than the general Lower Hutt population

In terms of overall quality of life



71%

of respondents with a disability reported that they had a good overall quality of life.

This was significantly lower than non-disabled survey participants (97%) and the general survey sample (88%). Disabled survey respondents were also more likely to rate their quality of life as poor (13%, compared to 1% of non-disabled participants).

When asked about changes in their quality of life in the 12 months prior to the survey, 28% of those living with a disability said it has increased, and 32% said it had decreased (38% said it stayed the same). Comments highlighted issues with accessing health care as the foremost reason for the decrease in quality of life.

People with a disability reported facing significant health challenges



17%

of survey participants with a disability rated their physical health as good, compared to 54% of non-disabled survey participants.

57%

of disabled participants rated their physical health as poor, compared to 11% of non-disabled people.

22% of those with a disability rated their mental health as good, compared to 50% of non-disabled people. Conversely, 58% of people with a disability rated their mental health as poor, compared to 17% of non-disabled people and 31% of the general survey sample.

Disabled survey participants in Lower Hutt reported lower levels of satisfaction with their housing situation compared to non-disabled people



45% of disabled survey respondents disagreed that their housing costs were affordable, compared to 33% of non-disabled respondents.



75% of disabled respondents agreed that their housing suited their needs, compared to 88% of non-disabled residents.

Disabled respondents noted issues with using public transport in Lower Hutt

Disabled respondents had varying perceptions of public transport in Lower Hutt:



58% agreed that public transport was easy to get to, compared to 77% of non-disabled respondents.

28% agreed that public transport in Lower Hutt is affordable, compared to 40% for non-disabled respondents.

43% agreed that public transport was safe from crime or harassment, compared to 59% of non-disabled residents.

Such perceptions may limit the willingness of our disabled residents to use public transport in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt.

Disabled survey participants generally feel connected to their communities, but also often experienced feelings of isolation



63% of survey respondents living with a disability agreed that it is important to them to feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood. 52% agreed that they do feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood.

Despite relatively high levels of social and community connectedness, those living with a disability (27%) were more likely to 'always' or 'most of the time' feel lonely or isolated in the 12 months prior to the survey than non-disabled respondents (3%).



14% of respondents with a disability said that they have personally experienced prejudice or intolerance in the past 12 months because of their physical or mental health condition, compared to 1% of non-disabled residents.

Disabled survey participants in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt reported greater economic challenges than non-disabled people

Disabled survey participants



34% were less likely than non-disabled respondents (64%) to say that they have enough, or more than enough, money to meet their everyday needs.

They were more likely to say outright that they did not have enough money for these basic needs (27%, compared to 14% of non-disabled respondents).

Understanding these results

The survey data suggests that Lower Hutt residents with a disability experience a lower quality of life than others across several different measures compared to non-disabled people, and reflects a greater general hardship.

In some areas (such as health challenges), the difference in quality of life between disabled and non-disabled survey participants is expected. However, the survey is also able to discern that disabled residents appear to have lower levels of satisfaction with regards to their housing and public transport, which indicates that accessibility in Lower Hutt remains an issue for this population group.

Given that issues associated with accessibility appear to impact disabled people's quality of life in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai / Lower Hutt, it is unsurprising that feelings of social isolation appear especially pronounced for this group compared to non-disabled people, along with reports of prejudice.

Steps taken by Hutt City Council to support our disabled residents

Hutt City Council is working to support the needs of our disabled residents. Hutt City Council's work in this area includes:



10-year Plan 2021-31 Getting the Basics Right

- The Council Engagement Strategy will make sure that people who require spoken / sign language interaction can obtain it through the Sub-regional Disability Forum and non-government organisations that provide sign / spoken language services.
- Swimming Pool Concession Accessibility 10-Swim for people with a disability (carers or support people assisting receive free admission).



Annual Plan 2022-2023 Making Progress

- Street Accessibility Audit Report: Recommendations to address equitable accessibility for people of different abilities/needs in areas identified by community as priority.



Accessibility and Inclusiveness Plan 2017-27

- Council communication and information is accessible to all people.
- Council culture and processes include disability awareness and staff receive appropriate training.
- All people are able to move about the city easily and safely without being limited by the physical environment.
- In order to give effect to Articles 8 and 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Council will champion and promote employment opportunities for people with impairments, and will also establish an Accessibility and Inclusiveness Advisory Group (AIAG).



Active Community Grants

- Hearth Trust: Grant for weekly Garden to Table Community workshops.
- Recreate NZ: Grant for operational costs.
- Thumbs Up Trust: Grant for operational costs.