



Auckland Transport Open Board Meeting – 25 February 2025

Agenda item 13.0:

Public presentation: The Importance of Public Transport for Disabled Youth

By Aaron Smith



Submission to present to the Board of Auckland Transport

What is I.Lead?

I.Lead is a social justice movement for disabled youth by disabled youth that empowers disabled youth to advocate for their rights and influence policy at local, regional, and national levels. It provides a platform for disabled youth to share their experiences, voice their concerns, and propose solutions to systemic barriers in areas like education, employment, healthcare, transport, housing, and emergency management.

Founded with the aim of ensuring that disabled youth are actively involved in decision-making processes, I.Lead facilitates meaningful engagement between young disabled leaders and government representatives. The initiative organises events, including the I.Lead conference, which brings together disabled youth from across the country to discuss key issues and present recommendations to policymakers.

The I.Lead Conference 2024

The I.Lead conference, hosted on the 26th and 27th of March 2024 at Te Papa and New Zealand's Parliament, was the third instalment of this event. It brought together 47 disabled youth from across Aotearoa to discuss the key issues they face and develop recommendations for action. The conference was designed to provide a platform for disabled youth voices in policy-making processes, with the goal of influencing decisions on education, employment, transport, health, mental health, sport and recreation, housing, and emergency management.

The event culminated in a presentation of the attendees' recommendations to government ministers, symbolising an important step in ensuring that young disabled people are part of decision-making processes at the highest levels.

Recommendations

Transport: Attendees discussed the challenges of navigating public transport systems, particularly the lack of accessible vehicles and infrastructure. They called for nationwide improvements in transport accessibility and the development of a framework for ongoing consultation with disabled communities.

Recommendation #1

Public transport staff and drivers are required to undertake courtesy, etiquette, support and awareness training and education

- Discussion was centred on inclusion and the creation of an inclusive society, similar to the I am not a tick box discussion for health and something similar is needed for those people who are involved in providing transport such as bus drivers, taxi drivers and those people who design the services

Recommendation #2

Universally accessible public nationwide across all forms of transportation (eg. Standard transport requirements)

- The lack of choice or accessible transport options impacts on young people accessing work, school, training and employment. Rectifying this issue would provide more choice and control back into the hands of disabled young people

I. Lead would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss the above recommendations with you in further detail. We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you to create meaningful change.