

The Christchurch Central Library:

A building that promotes health and wellbeing for people of all ages and abilities

Endorsed by: Disability Advisory Group, Christchurch City Council

Collated by: Community and Public Health, Canterbury District Health Board

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Introduction

The Central Library's stated vision is to be a world class, uplifting, revitalizing, flexible, and future-proof place, for inspiration, connection, culture, and knowledge. This vision requires that the library is designed for the diverse population that will use the building.

The information below has been gathered from a range of sources that identify how built environments can promote public health and wellbeing. We are advocating for a 'universal' approach for the library – a building that is welcoming and suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

The aim of this document is to provide recommendations for the planners and designers of the Central Library. These points are relevant from the earliest to the latest stages of the project. While the recommendations are specific to the Central Library, many could be considered for other Christchurch building projects.

"Accessibility" is highly valued by people in Christchurch; it is the foundation on which participation in the community is based. We look forward to a more inclusive city that promotes health for all by creating environments that support individuals and communities to grow well, be well and stay well.

The Christchurch City Council's Disability Advisory Group is available to provide clarification or assistance on request. Contacts: allison.nichols-dunsmuir@cdhb.health.nz or claire.phillips@ccc.govt.nz

Aspect	Features recommended	Why is this important?
Wider context Encourage arrival and departure by active transport	Promote cycling by easy and safe access from all directions Promote walking routes by easy and safe access from all directions Promote bus use by easy and safe access from all directions	Encourage cycling, walking, and public transportation Design-in safety Logical connections among travel routes will encourage use
Sustainability Apply the best of current knowledge and materials to create a sustainable future for the lifespan of the site	Include reused/recycled/local building materials Minimise construction waste Minimise electricity usage via passive solar design, insulation and photovoltaic solar panels Site for maximum sun Install an efficient, effective heating and cooling system Minimise water usage. Collect and reuse rainwater Include systems for ongoing waste reduction and recycling	Reduced costs over lifespan of the site Reduced energy and resource use Demonstrate how sustainability can be built in
External environment Demonstrate a commitment to new ways of life in Canterbury	Include features of Maori and cultural significance, celebrate diversity Design simple building layout, maximising line of sight Include level or easy ramp access throughout the external site Include even, adequate, non-glare lighting	Linkage to communities Way finding Participation by people of all ages and abilities Safety

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<p>External environment (continued) Demonstrate a commitment to new ways of life in Canterbury</p>	<p>Design and install clear, visible exterior signage</p> <p>Position sheltered bus stop area not too far from entry</p> <p>Install enough safe bicycle stands</p> <p>Include a sheltered, mobility drop off area</p> <p>Include mobility car parking exceeding minimum requirements</p> <p>Provide for a secure area to park mobility scooters</p> <p>Design in lots of green landscaping, seating</p> <p>Include a scented garden</p> <p>Provide sun protection, especially over seating areas</p> <p>Include biodiversity in planting choices</p> <p>Install water fountain/s outside</p> <p>Consider including a public toilet accessed from the exterior</p> <p>Carry out Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Injury Prevention Through Environmental Design (IPTED) analyses</p>	<p>Welcoming</p> <p>Encourage use of buses</p> <p>Ease of access for those using active transport</p> <p>Cater to those using wheelchair vehicles</p> <p>Access for those with mobility parking permits</p> <p>More people will use these as population ages</p> <p>Landscaping and exterior amenities enhance the usability and appeal of the site for those who enter, but also for those who do not</p> <p>Provides a welcome amenity for people with visual impairments</p> <p>Over exposure to the sun has negative health consequences</p> <p>Improves natural habitats</p> <p>Hydration is important to health for all</p> <p>Public amenities like public toilets draw people</p> <p>Build in safety features throughout the site</p>

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<p>General internal environment Promote universal design</p>	<p>Design an easily understood layout for entries, exits, passageways</p> <p>Locate the Information/reception area/s so they are easy to find</p> <p>Ensure facility is well ventilated, with healthy indoor air quality</p> <p>Install display boards that can be used for community notices</p> <p>Locate defibrillator equipment centrally and prominently</p> <p>Install adequate water fountains throughout the facility, at heights suitable to adults/children/wheelchair users</p> <p>Limit food and drink sales to those that offer healthy options eg no sugary drinks</p> <p>Include reception counters and eftpos terminals accessible to wheelchair users</p> <p>Make all of the building, including staff-only areas, wheelchair accessible</p> <p>Have at least one large lift</p>	<p>Way finding – easy navigation is good for all and essential to be dementia-friendly</p> <p>Welcoming</p> <p>Healthy air</p> <p>Demonstrates role of the library in community, sharing information</p> <p>Emergency planning, time to respond affects health outcome</p> <p>Hydration is important to health for all</p> <p>Make the good choices the easy choices</p> <p>Access by people of all ages and abilities</p> <p>Enables employment by people with mobility impairments</p> <p>Some people require wheelchairs that are too large to fit into a standard lift and they are therefore often excluded</p>
<p>Lighting</p>	<p>Install adequate and non-glare lighting, taking care to minimize reflective glare</p>	<p>Address visual needs of the aging population</p>

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Flooring	<p>Should be dark in colour and contrast with the lighter wall colour, with skirting boards that clearly distinguish between the floor and the wall</p> <p>Install non-shiny, slip-resistant flooring, in a plain matt finish</p>	<p>Ease of use by those with visual impairments or dementia</p> <p>Shiny surfaces give the appearance of water or glass to a person with dementia, making them reluctant to walk on them.</p>
Signage	<p>Install signage that meets recognized standards: egs lower case with black lettering on white or yellow background, pictorial signs for toilets (not male and female figures as people with dementia do not always recognize these)</p> <p>Install easily visible emergency information/signage</p> <p>Make signage consistent across all CCC facilities</p>	<p>Address needs of vision impaired, those with dementia, those for whom English is not their language</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>Consistency is easier for all, and probably lower cost</p>
Stairways	<p>Install a contrasting colour stripe on the outer perimeter of any stairways</p> <p>Install handrails on both sides, and also in the middle of wide stairways</p>	<p>Ease of use by those with visual impairments, mobility impairments or dementia, helps in orientation</p> <p>Safety</p>
Seating	<p>Place tables and chairs with enough space around them to allow for privacy,</p> <p>Leave space for wheelchair and pram circulation</p> <p>Include quiet seating areas with an outdoor view.</p>	<p>Caters to people who want to be in a public space, but who find crowds a problem egs physical, mental health, learning disabilities, dementia</p> <p>Ease of access for all</p> <p>Outdoor views are valued by all, restful, calming. Quiet provides a refuge from city noise.</p>

Aspect	Features recommended	Why is this important?
Computers and technology Understanding and meeting community needs	Make layout, equipment and technology choices that cater to all ages and abilities, for staff and the public Include at least one CCTV magnifier Install some computer workstations that are height-adjustable	Ease of use by all abilities Enables those with some vision impairments to read text Allows usage by people of small stature or who use wheelchairs
Community spaces Everyone is welcome	Include accessible general spaces for a variety of activities Enable people of all abilities to participate in all clubs/groups Include accessible areas that can be booked for community use	Inclusion! Building social capital and community connections to the facility
Staff amenities A great environment to work in	Make fixtures, fittings and equipment choices based on the assumption that some staff will have impairments	Supports aspirations
Toilets Easy to use by everyone	Exceed 4121 space requirements in all toilet facilities Install handrails in all toilets Set out pairs of accessible toilets as 'mirror images' to support to those with a strong/weak side Have one toilet that would cater to those with very high needs, ie room for carers, change table, hoist Install dual flush/water saving toilets Install water efficient showers for staff who cycle or run to work	Access for all ages and abilities Reduces chance of falls for all users Specifically addresses needs of those who have had strokes or similar- these conditions will increase! Provides an opportunity to demonstrate the highest level of inclusion, gold standard Sustainability Encourages active transport