

Thu, May 22, 2025

Kia ora!

We're inviting you to be part of a new pilot that supports climate adaptation led by Auckland's disability community: **Disability-Led Climate Adaptation Pilot.**

What's it about?

The devastation caused by the 2023 floods and cyclone was a wake-up call for Auckland. It reminded us that climate pollution is changing the world we live in and more change will come. We know that we need to plan and act now, and include disability communities, to keep the people and places we love safe.

Auckland Council has a one-off **grant fund of \$100,000 to kickstart disability-led projects** that support disabled people to prepare for and respond to climate disruption. The disability community will lead this mahi — coming up with the ideas *and* recommending to Auckland Council how the funding should be spent. We encourage collaboration within the disability community, and with other sectors.

It's a pilot, so we're testing ideas - not just about how the funding is allocated, but also how to partner properly with the disability community and build better relationships with Council.

Who's leading this work?

This project is a partnership between Auckland Council and the disability community. Liam and Cissy are the "Implementation Partners" and we are also establishing a Grant Advisory Panel whose main job is to assess and advise on the grants:

Liam Sanders – lived experience partner and community

connector: Liam is a long-time advocate and leader in the disability community, with lived experience of disability and a strong track record of building trusting relationships between community and systems. Based in Tāmaki Makaurau, he has worked across the disability and health sectors, including in roles focused on individualised funding, community engagement, and accessible service design. Liam brings a deep understanding of the barriers disabled people face and a strong belief that solutions should be led by the community itself.

Cissy Rock – project facilitator: Cissy is an experienced practitioner with local government and community experience spanning over 20

years. She is committed to community development processes, combining systematic thinking with grassroots doing. She loves working with people and communities, finding ways for all to have a voice.

There are two ways you can get involved:

1. Come to the workshops

Through a series of co-designed workshops, we'll look at:

- What disability-inclusive climate adaptation could look like
- International examples and case studies
- Practical project ideas from the disability community
- How funding should be allocated to support these ideas

Workshops dates are still to be confirmed, but will be held in the weeks beginning:

- Workshop 1 – 14/07/2025
- Workshop 2 – 28/07/2025
- Workshop 3 – 11/08/2025
- Workshop 4 – 8/12/2025 (with successful applicants)

Specific workshop dates and details will be sent soon – make sure you're on our email list! Email us at Projects@communitythink.nz to stay updated.

2. Join the Grant Advisory Panel

Help shape this project and guide how funding is allocated. You'll be paid for your time and supported to participate fully. This group will ensure diverse voices from across the disability community are heard, and that decisions are led by the people most impacted.

Who we're looking for:

People with lived experience of disability who are connected to their communities and want to support disability-led funding and decision-making. You don't need climate change expertise, but you should be interested in making climate adaptation more inclusive. You need to live, work, play or study in Auckland.

You also need to be available to attend four meetings between June and December 2025. We will confirm the exact dates with the appointed Panel members, but meetings will be scheduled during the weeks beginning:

- 30/06/2025
- 13/10/2025
- 17/11/2025
- 8/12/2025

For more details on the Grant Advisory Panel, please see the draft Terms of Reference attached. The first job of the Panel will be to review, (amend if necessary) and ratify these Terms of Reference.

If you are interested, please submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form by 6 June 2025 using this link: [form](#).

Please note that there may be potential conflicts of interest in the event that a Panel member is also interested in applying for a grant, so the EOI form asks you to identify any potential conflicts of interest. You can also contact Liam Sanders to discuss further Projects@communitythink.nz. This is about participation and community leadership from the disability community. Disabled people know best what's needed to prepare for climate change — and should lead the way in deciding where this money goes.

Ngā mihi nui,

Liam and Cissy