

INCLUSION HUB PROPOSAL 2023

RICI (RODNEY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES) INC

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A.I.M (ADULTS IN MOTION) INC.

The Auckland Plan 2050: Belonging and Participation /Te whai pānga me te whai wāhi atu

All Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential / He rohenga tangata, he iwi tōpuni, mōwai tonu te whenua e takoto nei e.

Everyone benefits in an inclusive society.

The Objective - To make Rodney the most inclusive district in NZ.

- Need #1: The population growth in Rodney is currently rising at a rate of 3 times that of the greater Auckland region. The current population of nearly 80,000 is expected to be 135,000 25 years from now, the second highest local board growth rate in Auckland. With that in mind it is important that we recognise that 1 in 4 New Zealanders identify as having a disability and they need support.
- Need #2: There is no Disability Support Service Centre in the Rodney District (See need #1)
- Need #3: Belonging and participation are key aspects to create healthy communities. Inclusion brings together different ethnicities, cultures, genders, and abilities. Social cohesion and community building requires a proactive commitment to Inclusion and Accessibility.

The Opportunity - To create an Inclusion Hub in Warkworth, Rodney District

- Goal #1: Provide a central accessible and inclusive Hub from which to source information, support, activities, workshops and services for all marginalized and disabled persons and/or their families, in Rodney.
- Goal #2: Network and collaborate with the wider Rodney community and existing community groups, to co-design activities, share resources, events, and workshops - both on and off the premises.
- Goal #3: Build community by establishing a base, and generating a culture of Inclusion and Accessibility in Rodney.

Refurbishment: With our input, the Shoemith Hall can be refurbished in stages

Shoemith Hall in Warkworth, whilst utilized by some community groups, is recognised as being underutilized and not fit for public purpose. Refurbishment of the hall would enable the significant potential of the premises, in terms of serving and meeting the needs of the community, to be realized.

- Establish a new main entrance / exit.
- Create an outdoor deck with wide ramp access to the exterior double doors.
- Amend / widen interior doorways to enable access for motorized wheelchairs.

- One fully accessible toilet.
- Create outdoor covered zones.
- Provide storage (outdoor sheds) for equipment used by community groups.
- A smaller, screened-off zone inside, with comfortable soft furniture/seating and carpet (a sensory factor).
- Improved / updated lighting.
- A renovated and resourced kitchen to be shared and utilized by all participating community groups.
- Permanent office space for AIM and RICl. Our accessibility services will be of direct benefit to the Rodney Local Board, when considering all future accessibility matters.

Other Benefits

By establishing an Inclusion Hub in the Rodney District, we will have the opportunity to proactively demonstrate how inclusion works, and how this will benefit our local communities. This goal fully aligns with current legislation - the Human Rights Act 1993, the Bill of Rights Act 1990, and the NZ Government's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (CRDP). The Government signed the Convention at the United Nations on 30 March 2007, and ratified it on 26 September 2008.

These objectives also clearly align with the Rodney Local Board Plan 2020 and the Auckland Plan 2050.

CONCLUSION

The vision for an Inclusion Hub in the Rodney District, is to establish a much-needed community space for a **multi-purpose public facility** that will cater for diverse groups – specifically focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable and isolated in our community. This visionary concept will raise awareness about inclusion and accessibility in the region, create local job opportunities as we expand our activities, and offer a central base that focuses on supporting the wellbeing of all marginalized persons and their families in the Rodney District.

The Inclusion Hub can also be set up to function as **an Emergency Centre for the vulnerable**, during any future extreme weather events. Recent events such as the Cyclone and subsequent floods have made the need for such a facility within our community, more apparent.

RICl and AIM Inc. will take on the challenge of making Rodney District the most inclusive district in NZ. We will aim to have the hall booked out 7 days a week, with inclusive public activities and events. We are hopeful that the Rodney Local Board will support us with this vision as we expand our activities in the region.

If you have any questions on this proposal, please contact us at:

rodneynclusive@gmail.com or by phone at 021-1382878.

Gareth Pring, Chairperson

Rodney Inclusive Communities Inc (RICl)