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**From the New Zealand Crippled Children Society to
CCS Disability Action:
A social and political history of a disability organisation in Aotearoa
New Zealand moving from charity to social action**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of**

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Abstract

The New Zealand Crippled Children Society, founded in 1935, has emerged as CCS Disability Action in the first decade of the 21st century. This thesis covers the social history of the organisation from 1935 to 1945 and 1997 to 2008, placing it into the societal context of Aotearoa New Zealand by exploring previous histories, examining historical documents and collecting information in interviews with key players.

Analysis of the documentary and interview data is guided by questions about the influence on CCSDA by:

- The changing perception and language around impairment and disability in the last 75 years and the influence of the social model of disability
- The bicultural perspective crucial to social history in Aotearoa New Zealand expanding to multicultural considerations
- The emergence of the disability rights movement and the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Key developments in social policy in Aotearoa New Zealand and the relationship of non profit organisations and the State with the cross-pollination of innovative ideas and the varying balance of power

Recommendations for CCSDA suggest continuing as a champion for the rights of disabled children and keeping the combination of quality service and social change agenda. A comprehensive history of CCS Disability Action is recommended as an acknowledgment of disabled people's contribution to CCSDA and to society in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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List of Abbreviations

ABCNZ	Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand
ACC	Accident Compensation Corporation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CCS	Acronym for Crippled Children Society
CCSDA	CCS Disability Action, name of the organisation since 2007
DANZ	Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand
DPA	Disabled Persons Assembly
DPEP	Disabled Persons Employment Promotion
DPCW	Disabled Persons' Community Welfare Act
DRM	Disability Rights Movement
IHCPA	Intellectually Handicapped Children's Parents Association
IYDP	International Year of Disabled Persons
LAC	Local Area Coordination (model)
LAC	Local Advisory Committee
LEC	Local Executive Committee

MP	Member of Parliament
NASC	Needs Assessment and Service Coordination
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NZCCS	New Zealand CCS, name of the organisation from 1989 to 2007
NZDS	New Zealand Disability Strategy (2001)
ODI	Office of Disability Issues
RNZFB	Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
PLAN	Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network
SIL	Supported Independent Living
SRV	Social Role Valorisation
ToW	Treaty of Waitangi
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UPIAS	Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation

Preface

This thesis examines two eras of the 75 year journey from New Zealand Crippled Children Society to CCS Disability Action. My personal involvement with the New Zealand Crippled Children Society (NZCCS) began after my daughter was born with an impairment in 1985 - it is with my daughter's permission that I write about this personal experience. The first time I heard the name Crippled Children Society was a few hours after my daughter's birth and I was shocked by the impact of the word 'crippled'. In the first year of my daughter's life I felt institutionalised by all the professionals visiting our home including the Field Officer of NZCCS. However the information they provided was very helpful and my involvement in a mothers' group established by NZCCS brought me in contact with other women who were fighting for their disabled children's rights to be treated the same as all other children. We were a fierce group, standing up for disability rights and supporting each other. In 1991, NZCCS was seeking parents to take over their childcare centre in Hastings and I established a Trust together with three other women. The Trust took responsibility for running the early childhood centre and for converting it into a commercial business catering for all children including children with impairments. Involvement in local and national governance of CCS Disability Action (CCSDA) followed and at present I am a member of the National Board, which employs the CEO and leads the strategic thinking of CCSDA.

My interest in doing research started when I became aware of the academic discipline of Disability Studies. I had a degree in Germanistik (German literature and language), History and Social Sciences from Regensburg University in Germany which was assessed as the equivalent of a Masters degree in New Zealand. When my two children were settled at school, I followed my interest in Maori Studies and Women's Studies at Massey University extramurally and I expected to continue my academic path in these disciplines. Then my daughter had a severe accident at Riding for the

Disabled at the age of 14. Peoples' reaction to accidental injury compared to congenital impairment was so markedly different, it left me looking for answers regarding this discriminatory behaviour and the reality of a hierarchy of impairments. The Disability Studies papers at Massey offered new insights including the chance of theorising disability, exploring the different models and theories of disability and provided more links to the disability community in Aotearoa New Zealand and in Germany. On a visit to Germany I researched the German Disability Rights Movement and the new discipline of Disability Studies at universities in Cologne and Bremen. This research topic developed after completion of a Postgraduate Diploma majoring in Disability Studies, which included papers on Social Policy and on Research Methods.

The social and political history of CCSDA provides a great platform to examine perceptions of impairment and disability, follow the development of the disability rights movement in Aotearoa New Zealand and explore the influence of government policy on CCSDA. The last history of CCSDA was published in 1995 and it seemed a good time to revisit the first 60 years, add the next 15 years and offer contemporary analysis. The preservation of historic voices and the recording of disabled leaders' voices - recently involved in CCSDA, but since moved on - was another motivation. Right at the start of the research project the decision was made to concentrate on the first decade and the last 11 years of CCSDA's history as the entire history was too big for this thesis. However the fundamental changes in government policy regarding non profit organisations and the rise of the contract culture in the late 1980s and 1990s made it necessary to cover this period briefly and to offer a background for the changes in the external and internal environment of CCSDA.