



*Kia whai tikanga te Kawenata*  
Making the Convention Real

UNIVERSITY of OTAGO

26-29 NOVEMBER 2017

## Setting the scene

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This is the story of the birth of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It is a story of creation and beginnings, a story important to Aotearoa New Zealand. It is a story of people coming together from all over the world. It is a story that transcends boundaries. It is a story for our mokopuna, our descendants. It is a story that is unfinished, and a story for us all. A story we want you to be part of.

In November 2017 we invite you to meet with us in Dunedin, Aotearoa New Zealand. Together, we will learn from those who have gone before us and those who are currently involved in disability matters. We will listen to those who will assist us in creating equitable pathways as we navigate the future.

One of the priorities of this conference is to provide a forum for discussion of the Convention by a much wider range of participants than those typically involved in academic/research conferences. We welcome all who have an interest in and commitment to disability and social justice, including people with stories of their experiences; their family/whānau; advocates and support people; educators; practitioners; service providers; legal, business and community representatives; policy makers and government employees; researchers and students of any age.

We want the Convention to matter to *you* by bringing it to life in Aotearoa New Zealand, and beyond. The Convention needs to work for those with disabilities and all who are involved in whatever way with individuals' lives. It needs to work in a way that reflects and respects the cultural and economic diversity of our country. Collectively, we will look to the Convention for tools that will help make a difference for future generations.

