



**Advocating for Rights &
Promoting Abilities of People
with Disabilities since 1999**

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Press Release

DPA welcomes ANZ new ramp

The Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA) would like to welcome the new ramp built at the ANZ bank in Luganville recently. DPA congratulate ANZ for this big step they took in ensuring that all people including persons with disabilities accessing their services.

DPA believes that such development is vital since bank services play a crucial role in terms of financial sustainability for each individual including person with disabilities. Hence for ANZ to ensure that their service is accessible is commendable.

It is also worth noting that the government of Vanuatu has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) which clearly defines in Article 9 the accessibility of services and buildings for persons with disabilities. Thus, it is important for government to ensure that these articles in the conventions are translated into national laws and implemented throughout the country.

The accessibility of services and buildings is vital for persons with disabilities as they will be able to utilise the banking services of the bank and also enjoy it like anyone else.

DPA has been advocating for better accessibility for all persons with disabilities in the country. During a visit to Fiji, DPA Vanuatu met with ANZ regional manager in which the inaccessibility of the bank was highlighted and DPA is very thankful that the manager sticks to his words in building this ramp.

While ANZ's new ramp is crucial for persons with disabilities it also sets a standard for other service providers in Luganville and Vanuatu to follow, guaranteeing that all people including persons with disabilities are accessing their services.

DPA urges governments, provincial councils and municipal councils to ensure the implementation of the building act and review the building code so that the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities are taken into account and implemented, hence realising their rights to a decent life.

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