



## Conclusions

This handbook has been produced to help communities develop sailing opportunities for people with disabilities. It is based on best practice, culled from successful initiatives, both within New Zealand and overseas.

It should not be seen as a prescriptive set of steps to be slavishly followed, but rather as a set of guidelines, to be adapted to suit your circumstances. Experience, both nationally and internationally, has shown that there is no standard organisation which meets the needs of every situation.

- Some organisations are small, with only a few helpers and a small fleet of boats; others are large, with a variety of boat types and many sailors and helpers.
- Some operate independently of local yacht clubs; others are fully integrated into the mainstream of yacht club operations.
- Some employ paid coaches and bosuns, others depend on an all-volunteer workforce.
- Some cater only for those with physical disabilities; others include sailing for the visually impaired and those with intellectual disabilities.
- Some cover their operating costs through membership subscriptions; others offer heavily subsidised sailing through charitable donations and other fund-raising schemes.
- Some provide only recreational sailing, others also include racing opportunities.
- Some focus only on sailing, others also include social events outside the regular sailing season.

Nevertheless, there are some propositions that can be universally applied, regardless of your circumstances:

- Seek affiliation to Yachting New Zealand, where you can access essential information on training, coaching and racing.
- Make contact with Yachting New Zealand's Committee for Sailors with Disabilities to seek support and advice.
- Consider joining Blind Sailing New Zealand, where much additional information is available on the more specific needs of people with vision impairments as they are introduced to our sport.
- Join the Class Association relevant to your fleet to stay abreast of current developments.

Finally, remember that even the largest and most successful of organisations had modest beginnings. The maxim "**Think big, start small**" is especially relevant to helping people with disabilities get involved in our sport.