

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Promoting Independence, Productivity, Self-Determination, Integration and Inclusion

Worker Chose Wrong Person To Disrespect

By Dave Reynolds, Inclusion Daily Express

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AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND--Barry de Geest got a surprise late last month when he told an able-bodied employee of the Auckland District Health Board that he was parking improperly in a spot designated for motorists with disabilities.

"He said he couldn't give a **** because he was dropping off heavy equipment [a computer] and he will park wherever he likes," de Geest explained. "He then abused me as he left. He gave me the finger salute and told me to get ****ed."

It's likely the employee got a surprise when he learned that de Geest, who uses a wheelchair, is the chairman of the very board that employs him.

De Geest brought the incident up to the board during its August 4 meeting.

Chief executive Garry Smith said he was taking it seriously, but that employment law kept him from saying what corrective action the worker might face.

Related:

"Health worker abuses disabled board member at parking bay" (New Zealand Herald)

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