



**Season's Greetings!** The NZDSN team wishes all our members and stakeholders a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

The NZDSN team would like to thank all our members and stakeholders for their contributions and engagements over the past year. Your support for the work we do is critical to the outcomes we are seeking to achieve.

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### NZDSN Board Changes

Following our AGM in September we are pleased to announce that Simone Molenaar from Aspire in Hamilton was newly elected to our Board. We were sad to lose Donna Mitchell who made a significant contribution to the work of NZDSN. We have also received the resignation of Janine Stewart who has contributed hugely to NZDSN over many years. This left us with a vacancy on the Board and this was offered to the next available highest polling candidate – welcome back to Laurie Hilsgen! At subsequent Board meetings Sean Stowers from Spectrum Care was elected Board Chair and Karen Scott from Enrich plus as Deputy Board Chair. Congratulations!

### New Team Members

A big welcome to Callum McMenamin who joins us as our Digital Media Coordinator. Callum is behind our new presence on Facebook and Twitter. A few words from Callum:  
*“I’m honoured to be a part of the NZDSN team – and I look forward to see what positive changes & knowledge I can bring to an organisation within a sector I care so much about”.*

You can check out Twitter [here](#) and our Facebook page [here](#)

In the new year we will be recruiting some additional office administration assistance.

### 2020 Sector Briefing

The 2020 Sector Briefing outlines our sector’s funding issues along with other critical investments and policy changes NZDSN believes are needed. It spells out the implications for disabled people, families and providers if the government chooses not to deliver for a second year in a row. We will continue to leverage off this document over the coming months in terms of budget 2020 and the General Election. NZDSN members have received an updated lobbying guide to assist in their engagements with local MPs. A copy of the Sector Briefing can be found [here](#).

We would also like to draw your attention to the CCS Disability Action Report: “The state of wellbeing and equality for disabled people, their families, and whanau” which echoed many of the sentiments expressed in our Sector Briefing. Copies of the CCS Disability Action report can be downloaded [here](#).

### Residential Pricing Model

Input and negotiations continue with the RPM. The latest iterations are improvements but more work is needed. We still need convincing that we are near a fair and reasonable actual cost-based model for an efficient provider. Full or incremental implementation must be based on such a platform otherwise inequities and underfunding for some providers will continue.

### MSD Training Fund

As part of the Inclusive NZ winding up process NZDSN is taking on the administration of the MSD Training Fund. We are currently in the process of signing up to a contract with MSD for this role. Our website will have a specific tab for the training fund with the application form and related information to guide you through the process. This should be available from the beginning of February. In the mean-time if you have any queries please contact the NZDSN office.

### Employment Support Qualification Development

We have contracted Grant Cleland and Gordon Boxall to work with the NZDSN Employment Advisory Committee and a cross-sector stakeholder group to develop the content and delivery model for a Diploma qualification in Employment Support. To lay down a solid foundation for the Diploma course we are hosting a three-day workshop in February for those providing leadership in Employment Support (we see this group as potential future accredited assessors and learning support facilitators), and as a benchmarking exercise. This workshop will be led by two trainers/consultants from the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment from Seattle. At this stage we are looking to start delivery of the Diploma programme in April or May 2020. Course information will be sent out soon.

### Tui Tuia

Tui Tuia is our recently established Maori Advisory Committee. The group is led by Board member Tania Thomas (Te Roopu Taurima) and Matua Graham Warren (NZDSN Kaumatua). Committee membership and further details are available [here](#).

### Draft Disability Employment Action Plan

MSD has asked NZDSN to host a series of workshops in late January 2020 to get feedback from providers on the action plan. This is an important opportunity for providers to come together to discuss the draft and offer input into a piece of work that could shape developments in employment outcomes for disabled people for some time. Workshops will be hosted in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. You can register for these free workshops [here](#). You can download a copy of the action plan [here](#).

There is also a summary version, alternative/accessible versions, the Cabinet paper and Ministers media release available at this MSD link: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/disability-services/disability-employment-action-plan/index.html>

### Employer-assisted visa program and Sector agreement

We are in discussions with MBIE about the next steps to enable an Accredited Employer pathway for those providers wanting to employ people on temporary work visas. This will require us as an employer representative body to propose a programme of work that develops the domestic labour market. This is an opportunity to work collaboratively to address the lack of diversity in our workforce, and the fact that it is a rapidly aging workforce. By March next year we should be in a position to establish a working group of employers to develop and then implement a programme of work. Thank you to those organisations who indicated a willingness to join such a working group – such an enthusiastic response helped convince MBIE that we have a mandate to proceed. There is further information on the changes being made to immigration policy [here](#). For more detailed information you can watch [this webinar](#).

### Upcoming Events

- **January 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Draft Disability Employment Action Plan Consultation workshops.** [Registrations](#)
- **February 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Discovery Workshop Series.** [Registrations](#)
- **February 27<sup>th</sup> Re Thinking Organisations.** [Registrations](#)
- **March 25<sup>th</sup> Transition from School National Symposium in Rotorua.** [Registrations](#)
- **April 29<sup>th</sup> Supporting People with Very High Needs National Symposium in Auckland.** Registrations open in January
- **Coming in May: National Employment Symposium**

# NZDSN 2019 Newsletter

*December Update*



**Auckland Update: you can access this [HERE](#)**

**The NZDSN office will be closed from December 20<sup>th</sup> until January the 6<sup>th</sup>.**