

NZDSN September 2015 Newsletter

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Update from the CE

Dr Garth Bennie

Kia ora

With our annual conference now behind us we have been able to take some time to reflect on the whole experience – and the first for me as CE. The feedback has been almost universally positive, particularly in relation to the quality and timeliness of the content and the overall “vibe” that people felt during the whole event. We set a record for attendance, both at the conference and the awards evening. People also commented on the challenge of so much choice of workshops to attend across the 5 work streams. In one sense a nice problem to have, but also one we will take account of in our future planning.

The particular venue within Te Papa was also a first for us and we have identified ways to improve the experience in this regard as well. Thank you to all of those involved in the organisation and hosting of the conference, to all the presenters and

keynote speakers, our exhibitors, our sponsors and of course to conference participants for creating such a fantastic experience. And don't forget to complete the conference feedback questionnaire that was sent out by our conference organiser, Libby Carson.

The NZDSN Annual General Meeting also coincided with the conference this year. As a result of board elections we need to thank departing board members Marese McGee, David Matthews and Chris Harris for their huge contribution of several years to the work of NZDSN, and welcome as new Board Members Brett Marsh (Spectrum Care) Rob Warriner (Walsh Trust) and Sharon Saxton (MASH Trust). Take a look at the [NZDSN Annual Report 2015](#) including this year's business plan.

You will recall that the **Ministry of Social Development released some proposals earlier this year on changes to employment, participation and inclusion services** which the sector resoundingly rejected both in terms of much of the content and the process that had led to their development. It has been pleasing to see that MSD has responded by dropping much of what had been proposed and is engaging with the sector through a series of workshops to look at the design of an outcomes framework and related service specifications and descriptions. It is important we take advantage of this opportunity to contribute and NZDSN has a team of 4 people participating in the workshops. [Further information on this is available below.](#)

NZDSN has also worked alongside Inclusive NZ with MSD to minimise the impact of proposed **funding cuts to some providers to meet the costs associated with new participants as part of the EGL projects in Christchurch and the Waikato.** As well as achieving a reduction in the funding cuts there is now a process that affected providers can use with MSD should they find that services to disabled people will be compromised or if individuals may have to be exited from services. This issue is a particular example of the concerns we raised in our sector briefing document about the need for Government to invest in infrastructure as part of any service system transformation. I raised this issue again in my address at the NZDSN conference and how Government needed to account for the costs associated with major changes. [Click here](#) to read Garth's address at this year's 2015 NZDSN Annual Conference.

NZDSN welcomes the release on 15 September of the Productivity Commission's final report. The Productivity Commission notes that achieving reform will require active commitment from both government and non-government leaders. The Productivity Commission inquiry has provided a positive opportunity to raise the issues we face, including the systemic under-investment our sector has faced over many years. We are particularly heartened by the report's emphasis on the need for collaboration, the observation that good design takes time and resources, and that the Government's investment approach needs to be further refined to better reflect the wider costs and benefits of interventions. We now look forward to helping deliver the benefits the report identifies. I strongly encourage you to take a look at the report (there are a series of summary documents available on the [Productivity Commission's website](#)).

We have a number of **surveys** coming out to members between now and the end of the year related to workforce data gathering, a needs analysis for our provider

development programme and a general membership satisfaction survey. We will endeavour to ensure a reasonable interval between each survey, but please take the time to complete these as the information is vital for us to ensure that what we do as an organisation is timely and relevant.

In the next few weeks we will be starting an **Expression of Interest** process to recruit people to be mentors for our new **Leadership Mentoring Programme**. Part of the programme will be championing the Lets Get Real framework along with a broader mentoring support role for new and aspiring leaders/managers. Once selected, mentors will participate in an induction programme.

NZDSN Annual Conference and Awards Evening 2015

Libby Carson

What an amazing conference we had in Wellington last month – our biggest ever! Let's start with a huge thanks to everyone who attended, supported, sponsored, exhibited and presented – without each of you, our conference would not have been a success.

We thought it might be fun to summarise the conference by numbers, so here goes:

- 325 delegates (a 135% increase on the last two years)
- 17 exhibitors (a 113% increase on the last two years)
- Over 90 presenters in our various keynotes, plenary and workstream sessions
- 225 attendees at the awards function (a 180% increase on last year's awards night)
- 5 Awards sponsors (a 125% increase on last year)

To our awards nominees and winners – a huge congratulations! To be nominated, in itself, is a huge honour and direct recognition of how the sector sees your role and dedication and whilst you are all winners by being nominated an extra special congratulations must go to our six winners for reaching the pinnacle in their category – you should be extremely proud of your achievements.

Our Awards categories and winners were:

- NZDSN Long Service within the Disability Sector – Marie Carr, Community Living
- NZDSN Community Choice – Pam Tomkins, Greater Green Island Community Network
- NZDSN Most Innovative Technology or Research – Dee Hyde, Community Connections
- NZDSN Leadership – Marese McGee, Community Living
- NZDSN Excellence in Supported Employment – Luke Kenmare, Catapult Employment Services
- NZDSN Best Exhibitor at Conference – Webcare

Check out the photos on our website www.NZDSN.org.nz

As you can see our conference is building and we are already working on next year's conference which will be held on 10-11 August 2016 – so please put these dates in your diary today!

Training and Development Coordinator Update

Phil Smith

Our Provider Development Programme is now in full swing. [Click here for details.](#)

We have held a very successful series of workshops throughout the country, delivered by Gill Bailey from the UK, around using 'Person centred thinking skills to enhance the provision of personalised support'. Approximately 100 people from the sector attended Gill's workshops in Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland and I know Gill really appreciated meeting and engaging with so many people on a topic she is passionate about. We have sent workshop participants a Survey Monkey link to obtain feedback and a big thank you to those who have already responded. We will keep the survey open for another week, so if you are yet to respond you still have time.

Registrations are currently open for remaining workshops in the Provider Development Programme and members are encouraged to attend. The workshops are free to NZDSN members but remember registrations close for all workshops, five working days prior to the event being held. All workshop information and registration details can be accessed from the NZDSN website.

Planning is well underway for 2016 with workshop content focused on a number of areas including Engaging Pacific Communities; safeguarding; preventing and reporting abuse; complaints processes and effectively responding to complaints; health and safety – including disabled peoples perspectives; latest developments in employment support; and moving from facility based to person directed/ individualised community participation.

Over the next ten days, we will be undertaking a Needs Analysis of the NZDSN membership to help inform the structure of our 2016 Provider Development Programme. I would encourage all members to engage with the survey through your organisation so that we can ensure that the programme for 2016 reflects membership needs. We will be using Survey Monkey to do this so an email with the survey link will be sent very soon.

I have certainly appreciated meeting NZDSN members at the various workshops we have held and look forward to meeting more of you at future workshops.

Policy Analyst Update

Sara Georgeson

In my role as Policy Analyst I contribute to a range of consultation processes led by various government agencies. This can sometimes be quite challenging as there can be tight timeframes. As the purpose of my input is to put forward the views and

perspectives of NZDSN members I will often put out a 'call' for feedback (either via email or our website).

Recently I collated feedback for the review of the Disability Action Plan led by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI). There was a 3 week turnaround time so our feedback was brief and succinct! However, later in 2015 the ODI will be leading a community engagement process to support the revision of the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

This will be an important opportunity for disabled people, their families and other stakeholders (including NZDSN members) to articulate aspirations and goals and have input into setting a long term work plan for government to bring about meaningful change for disabled people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Government Consultations - have your say

The Department of Internal Affairs has made it easier for people to get involved in government decision making, by listing public consultations that are happening across local and central government on the Govt.nz website at:

www.govt.nz/browse/engaging-with-government/consultations/.

MSD Service Design Workshops

Key organisations have been invited to send representatives to a series of 3 workshops to design an outcomes framework and related service descriptions and specifications for employment, participation and Inclusion Services. The first workshop on 21 September 2015 is on developing descriptions of the outcomes we are seeking from Employment Participation and Inclusion Services (EPI).

MSD are wanting to work with the sector to progress three proposals for change.

The proposals are aimed at getting better results for disabled people using EPI Services within the available funding. MSD wrote to providers earlier indicating that they want to do further work with the sector on three proposals for change

MSD are holding three workshops as follows:

- **Workshop 1** – to work on developing the outcomes framework for EPI services (21 September 2015)
- **Workshop 2** – to work on developing a new Specialist Employment Services service description that covers all specialist employment support, regardless of the hours of work people are seeking, and a new payment structure based on outcomes for these services (23rd October 2015)
- **Workshop 3** – to work on developing new specification for services to support people to participate in employment and/or their community (11 November 2015).

The organisations that have been invited to send representatives are:

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand	Inclusive New Zealand
Balance New Zealand	New Zealand Disability Support Network
Deaf Aotearoa NZ Inc	CCS Disability Action
Deafblind NZ Inc	IHC Advocacy
Disabled Persons Assembly NZ Inc	Parent to Parent
Ngāti Kāpo o Aotearoa Inc	Ministry of Health
People First NZ Inc	

NZDSN representatives at these workshops will be Helen Robertshaw (Framework) Grant Cleland (Workbridge) Wendy Becker (Enrich Plus) and Garth Bennie. It is likely that this group will be consulting with other providers for input to ensure they are making relevant contributions during the course of the workshops. If you want to have input into these workshops please contact one of these four people.

Upcoming NZDSN events

[Click here for details](#) for our upcoming Provider Development workshops.

News from NZDSN Auckland Regional Network

Mireille Vreeburg

It was good to see many of you at our NZDSN Annual Conference in Wellington and I am looking forward to reconnecting with you all at our next Auckland Regional Networking meeting on Wednesday 4 November at Framework in Otahuhu.

We have postponed this 3rd meeting due to a clash with another event to allow for members to attend both events. This topic of this meeting is “To promote Access in the community”.

You will have the opportunity to share what you are currently doing around this topic and how we can combine forces to move forward. We will also be talking about our “Communities in Practice” plans. Garth Bennie will also be attending this forum. Please [click here](#) for the programme and the registration form.

People First’s North Shore Pilot. Everyone has the right to be safe and feel safe.

On Thursday 10 September 2015, an Adult Safeguarding Workshop took place in Auckland.

This Workshop was part of People First New Zealand’s Keeping Safe Feeling Safe, Safeguarding Adults from Abuse (SAFA) pilot on Auckland’s North Shore. The SAFA Working Group facilitated the workshop, in partnership with Auckland Council, Spectrum Care and the Police. The hui was an opportunity for the local community to come along and find out more about how they can play their part in safeguarding

disabled adults, and other adults with greater care and support needs, from abuse and neglect. [Click here](#) for a more extensive article about the KSFS project.

KSFS Workshops are being planned to start around October in North Auckland. If you would like to register or find out more please contact kaeti@peoplefirst.org.nz or sue@peoplefirst.org.nz or on 027 4477 087.

NZDSN is currently exploring, in cooperation with People First, how we can support this KSFS project through our 2016 Service Providers Development programme.

Auckland Council Disability Advisory Panel

Every 6 weeks, the Disability Advisory Panel from Auckland Council meets in the Auckland Town Hall to discuss matters arising for the Auckland Disability community. The Panel's role is:

1. to provide knowledge on issues that are important to people with disabilities in Auckland in relation to council's regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws. This includes initiating and contributing to the 'big picture' conversations about Auckland's development now and in the future.
2. Advise the council on how to engage effectively with people with disabilities.

Many of their meetings cover important issues for our sector. If you are interested in this work, please [click here](#).

15 October Shake out & input into new emergency plan (Group Plan) for Auckland

Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management Director John Dragicevich is asking schools and businesses throughout Auckland to sign up to participate in [ShakeOut 2015](#).

So far 190,000 Aucklanders have signed up to take part in NZ ShakeOut, a national earthquake drill at 9.15 am 15 October. [Click here](#) for more info. This is a good opportunity as a service provider for disabled people to look at our preparedness for our people in more detail as there is risk from a broad range of natural hazards in Auckland.

During the next few months Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management is also asking Aucklanders to provide input into the new emergency plan (Group Plan) for Auckland. The plan will outline how hazards in Auckland are managed across key groups such as the emergency services and other organisations. To have your say go to www.shapeauckland.co.nz by 4pm Friday 16 October 2015.

Finally, it is very inspiring to see so many positive initiatives happening in our sector. Our recent NZDSN Conference showcased many examples of that. But like with the KSFS pilot, we all need to be on board and ask ourselves is there anything more we can do to create a safe and more inclusive New Zealand.

We hope to have more discussions with you around all this at our next NZDSN Auckland regional networking meeting on 4 November to hear what more support you would like to see from NZDSN In the meantime enjoy our spring months!

Upcoming Auckland events organised by other organisations

24 September	Indian families with children with special needs support group Ground floor of Nathan Homestead, 70 Hill Rd, Manurewa.
26 September	Spark Centre of Creative development. Open day 10.00-2.00pm Spark Centre Studio (unveiling their new name at 11.00 am) Fowlds Park, Rocky Nook Ave, St Lukes. Info at Info@sparkcentre.org.nz
30 September	Empowered events workshop, for community groups
6 October	World Cerebral Palsy Day Trust Arena, Henderson 10.00am-3.00pm
	Upcoming Dance Therapy NZ ' Dance 4 us programmes for adults. Also programmes available for children with special needs
13 October 11.00am- 2.30pm	Small(ish) providers meeting, around I-care tool & other topics. two4nine, ASL Creative space, 249 Edmonton Road, Te Atatu. RSVP before 8 October by email to mailto:stuart@asupportedlife.co.nz ,
13-14 October 9.00am-4.00pm	Advance Training, Domestic Abuse, Safety First Shine, 409 New North Road Kingsland.
9-10 November	Imagine better Assemblies Connections, communities, citizenship
	Children's Autism upcoming events
	Autism NZ regular support /social group meetings
	ANCADS Development Training
	Disability Connect Workshops& Seminars