

Ministry of Health and NZDSN

Joint Work Programme on Key Priorities

At a meeting with the Director General of Health and subsequent correspondence it was agreed that DSS and NZDSN would:

1. Work together on identifying 2 key agreed priority areas and a plan on how we would work together to progress them
2. These priorities would be built into the Ministry's wider strategic work programme so that they had the full and focused support of the DG and the Executive Leadership Team
3. These priorities would be communicated to the sector and the sector updated with regard to progress on delivery

The intention was that this approach would be a vehicle for a re-setting of the relationship between DSS and NZDSN to one underpinned by a valued partnership approach.

While an initial discussion between DSS and NZDSN readily identified up to 4 potential priority areas for consideration NZDSN undertook to survey its membership to sense check and rank these so we would be sure about the two that were most important to providers. The results were definitive with a clear 70% majority settling on two key priorities from the 4 presented. Of the 30% who offered alternative priorities these were mostly described in ways that were variations on themes that were referenced to those that were ranked the top two. The top two key priority areas identified in the survey were:

- A pathway to sustainable funding that also supports innovation
- A national roll out of Flexible Disability Support contracts (FDS)

The third ranked priority was: A coherent workforce strategy (future focused qualification pathways and leadership development to support innovation).

From initial discussion with the Ministry our sense is that the top two priority areas are inextricably linked and can be encapsulated as a single priority which then enables us to focus on workforce development as the second area. Thus the two identified priority areas that NZDSN would put forward for a joint work programme are:

1. An approach to commissioning that delivers sustainable funding, supports innovation and includes flexible contracting approaches like FDS.

2. A coherent workforce strategy (future focused qualification pathways and leadership development to support innovation).

A clear stakeholder management plan (the 4th ranked priority) is an inevitable prerequisite if we are to be successful with a joint undertaking.

Once agreed, we would see the next step being DSS and NZDSN developing a detailed plan on how we will work together to progress the two key priority areas.