

## **NZDSN/DSS Joint Work programme:**

### **Summary of issues canvassed and next steps (from meeting of November 17<sup>th</sup>).**

NZDSN are firmly of the belief that we need to take some heat out of the current situation by urgently addressing the funding inequities (and inadequacies) across providers and increasing the transparency of current pricing – which currently operates as a chaotic lottery as providers and NASCs struggle to arrive at agreed funding arrangements. As we observed if we can't take at least some steps to resolve the current situation the following already established trends will accelerate:

- Providers resisting, delaying and refusing to take new referrals (often at the insistence of their Boards) because the financial and quality risks are too high
- Diminishing provider capacity for practice leadership, clinical oversight and supervision all of which are closely related to quality and safety (It is this line of staffing that has been the most significant casualty of not recognising the wage relativity impacts of the pay equity settlement – this impact will grow exponentially in the final year of the settlement)
- The risk of a decline in the quality of current service options as investments are prioritised into new commissioning approaches – even though demand for current service options will persist well into the future.
- A move to more people in each home and more residences on the same property
- Difficulty in taking advantage of new commissioning approaches (change requires investment in the change itself)

None of the above is in the interests of disabled people and families. As we noted all this is in stark contrast to the way pricing and contracting operates with other funders – Oranga Tamariki, ACC and Corrections.

So, from an NZDSN perspective it is essential that we look at a piece of work that develops a pathway to resolving these issues and reduces the current pricing inequities and inadequacies. Doing so would send some important messaging to the sector and create some confidence that the issues were being taken seriously.

A second project could focus on future commissioning. The paper circulated following Tuesdays meeting is expansive, but vague in terms of a project and acknowledges that we still need to establish a specific project that can fit within the budget and time parameters outlined.

In summary, we seem to have a joint work programme that is shaping up well on the capability/workforce side of things, but not so much at all on the capacity/commissioning side. We look forward to progressing this over the coming week or two so that we can get underway with something that is doable (both in regard to the current unsustainable situation and for future commissioning) and within the resource and time constraints involved.

We have agreed to meet again in February next year to take another look at the progress we are making on a joint work programme and look forward to this discussion.