

Workforce Development Collaboration: Project Overview

A suite of projects has been developed through NZDSN to address some long standing concerns around the development of the disability support workforce. These concerns include the variable content and delivery of current sector qualifications and the lack of career pathways, a need to develop more immediate leadership support for service transformation, and the lack of audio visual training resources to support future focused practice that reflect our unique cultural contexts here in Aotearoa.

Across all these domains there is a need to embed workforce development activity that is informed by the enabling good lives principles, Te Tiriti o Waitangi as well as recognising Pacific equity and the wellbeing of all disabled people.

This initiative involves four discrete projects:

1. The development of curriculum and delivery options for the level 2-4 Health and Wellbeing qualifications
2. The development of curriculum and delivery options for a level 5 Diploma qualification in behaviour support
3. A leadership development programme aimed at supporting disability organisations to transform their services
4. The development of open source video training resources that illustrate the 8 enabling good lives principles in action

A Steering Group has been established to provide oversight across all 4 projects. This group is made up of representatives from the 3 project sponsors (MoH, MSD and Careerforce), National Enabling Good Lives Leadership Group, Family and Whanau Leadership Alliance, Carers Alliance, Faiva Ora Leadership Group, NZDSN, Te Pukenga, DPA New Zealand, People First, Te Ao Marama, Whanau Ora Interface Group, and unions. Project management and implementation sits with NZDSN.

Project Co -Leads have been appointed to each of the projects:

Grant Cleland and Cate Grace for the levels 2-4 qualification project

Gordon Boxall and Martyn Matthews to the Level 5 behaviour support qualification project

Janelle Fisher, Lisa Clausen and Logan Murray Fisher to the leadership programme (Humanly)

Tony Mclean, Nicky Mayne and Amy Shoebridge for the video training resource project (Imagine Better)

There are also project lead roles assigned across the projects and these people include **Maree Kirk, Kerri Bonner, James McEwan, Mary Foster, Sharon Brandford, Lisa Marin and Cherie Cawdron.**

The Steering Group has met twice:

1. To review their terms of reference and the appointment of project co-lead and support roles
2. To mihi whakatau the project co-leads and to review and provide feedback on draft project plans

A major initial focus to date has been on the planning and approaches to engage key stakeholders and the importance of beginning with the voices of disabled people and whanau so that this informs subsequent approaches to the wider group of stakeholders. This wider group includes service providers, training providers and

students. The Stewardship Group has provided some valuable feedback on what partnership with Maori needs to look like in the context of Te Tiriti and engagement approaches with Pacific Peoples. The Steering Group is providing valuable connections to key Maori, and Pacific stakeholders as well as to disabled people and family/whanau members

The Final Terms of reference and project plans will be made available to interested parties. For those who feel that they can make a contribution to these projects or have questions please get in touch with Garth Bennie: Benford@inspire.net.nz or phone 037 673 4678.

These are ambitious projects that offer a unique opportunity to develop a future focused disability support workforce that is equally valued by employers, disabled people and whanau

Garth Bennie, Project Manager