

News update 19/09/2022

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A message from our CEO



Peter Reynolds (CEO)

This month Peter gives you an update on Pay Equity, the IIDL meeting in Christchurch as well as giving you links and information on Public submissions on the "Accessibility for New Zealanders" Bill

Pay Equity

The named employers have finally reached agreement on a multi-employer pay equity process agreement (MEPEPA) and are engaged in signing this off now. Arguability of the claim has been confirmed with the unions and the wider group of affected staff are being informed about the claim, as is required under the Act. Interviews of a selection of care and support workers across the four affected sectors are now being scheduled. The employer group is setting up a Steering Group and engaging with the funders on a resourcing contribution

proposal. Finally, we are aware as at the end of this week, that a number of employers have now received a second pay equity claim for Co-ordinators and Service Managers.

Immigration

Immigration Minister Michael Wood announced that the Government is taking steps to provide immediate relief to businesses hit hardest by the global worker and skill shortage,

The Government announced Working Holiday Scheme measures to:

- Extend visas for onshore working holiday makers that are expiring between 26 August 2022 and 31 May 2023 by six months from date of expiry.
- Double the Working Holiday Scheme caps with a one-off increase to recognise the spots that were unused last year due to the border closure. This will mean around 12,000 more working holiday makers can come to New Zealand over the next six months or so.

Sector agreements were also announced for key sectors of the economy that are struggling to find workers. These agreements provide limited exemptions to the median wage requirement for hiring migrant workers on an Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) in specific occupations and sectors, in exchange for ongoing improvements.

NZDSN hosted a webinar for members with a guest presenter from Immigration NZ. While this was highly informative, it became quickly clear that only larger organisations were likely to benefit from the changes and that Immigration NZ had ignored the vast majority of disability support providers struggling to find staff.

New CEO for Whaikaha Announced

Disability providers have great hopes for the new Ministry of Disabled People and are encouraged by the appointment of Paula Tesoriero, says New Zealand Disability Support Network CEO Peter Reynolds.

"Ms Tesoriero did sterling work for the disabled community as the Disability Rights

Commissioner and was an inspiration as a Paralympian", said Mr Reynolds.

"NZDSN has great hopes for the new standalone Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People, as does the rest of the disabled community. It is an opportunity for an agency to put disabled people first, rather than always being an afterthought. Having a dedicated agency with its own funding and a 'nothing for us, without us' approach opens up the potential for a brighter future for disabled people.

"Leadership will be crucial to achieving the Ministry's potential and we believe that Ms Tesoriero has the capability to provide the vision and people-centred style needed.

"We look forward to working with Ms Tesoriero and her team to deliver better outcomes for disabled New Zealanders", said Mr Reynolds.

We are also grateful for Ms Tesoriero agreeing to address members at the forthcoming AGM.

IIDL

We look forward to welcoming everyone registered for the IIDL Australasia/Pacific Islands Regional Hub to Christchurch in October.

The IIDL meeting is fully allocated, and registrations are now closed. If you still wish to register for the IIMHL event, you can join the waitlist and the IIMHL will contact with you closer to the event.

Even if you are not able to attend the Christchurch hub, you can still participate in a virtual Match, but you will need to select your virtual Match at your earliest opportunity. You can view the [IIDL matches here](#).

Accessibility for all New Zealanders Bill

Public submissions on the Bill are being accepted now. The submission closing date is 11.59 pm on Monday, 07 November 2022.

The Bill addresses the accessibility barriers faced by disabled people, tāngata whaikaha, and others, so they can live independently and participate fully in all areas of life. The Bill also aims to ensure that disability issues are front of mind in decisions by policymakers and the Government of the day.

A submission is an opportunity to present your views, observations, and recommendations on the Bill. Submissions can contribute diverse experiences and voices into the development of the Bill.

Members of the disability community, their families, whānau and the broader public, may wish to be involved by submitting.

Tell the Social Services and Community Committee what you think.

Submit by going to Accessibility For New Zealanders Bill for - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz) Information on the Bill is available in alternative formats

- Resources in EasyRead and NZSL - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz)

Information is also available in the Committee press release

- Increasing accessibility for disabled people—tāngata whaikaha - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz)

You may also be interested in this guide to writing a submission

- Your guide to writing a submission - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz)

NZDSN will be preparing a submission on behalf of our members and in collaboration with Platform (peak body for Mental Health and Addictions providers).

NZDSN AGM

...is scheduled for the 22nd September via Zoom. Are you a financial full member of NZDSN? Have you registered to attend the AGM? Have you voted for the three vacant positions on the NZDSN Board? Contact admin@nzdsn.org.nz for more information.

As mentioned earlier, we are pleased to have Paula Tesoriero, CEO of Whaikaha, joining us at 10.30 for a brief introduction to her role, what her thinking is for the priorities facing our sector and how she wants Whaikaha to work closely with disability support providers. Paula's presentation will be followed by the NZDSN AGM.

NZDSN Policy Analyst



Dr Solmaz Nazari (Policy Analyst)

This month Solmaz discusses changes to the Disability survey, the Auckland City Council amendment to the transport provisions and the housing for disabled people.

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[LinkedIn](#)

NZDSN Auckland Regional Co-ordinator



Kristi Shaw (Auckland Regional Co-ordinator)

Kristi talks to us about the Auckland Regional news.

NDSN National Employment Services Co-ordinator



Gordon Boxall (National Employment Services Co-ordinator)

A reminder for for anyone attending the Discovery Workshop in Auckland on Friday the 30th of September with Milton Tyree as well as a message for the Employment Support Regional Co-ordinators and a discussion of the employment webinars.

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MSD Training Fund

This fund supports Employment, Participation and Inclusion Service providers to improve develop their services through learning and training.

People are welcome to apply at any time throughout the year. Please go to our [website](#) for further information and to submit applications.

Member profile



MASH Trust is a non-government organisation and registered charity that has been operating

since 1989, when it was founded to provide accommodation and sheltered housing. Today MASH provides a wide range of support services for approximately 1,700 people with mental health conditions, disabilities; alcohol and addiction struggles and youth respite care.

Our services are offered in a number of settings including day programmes, support in people's own homes, support within MASH homes, and support in the community. MASH operates throughout the lower North Island in Wellington, Kapiti, Horowhenua, Palmerston North, and Hawkes Bay with over 550 staff and volunteers.

The services we provide include:

- Mental Health Recovery Services (supported homes and community-based support)
- Mental Health and Addiction Treatment
- Disability Services (supported homes and community-based support)
- Rehabilitation Services (community-based support)
 - Social Services (community-based support)
 - Child/Youth Crisis Respite Service
 - LUCK venue
 - Friendship Facilitation Service
 - Support in the Community Services

Upcoming events

The NZDSN AGM

Thursday 22nd September
10:30 am

Auckland Regional Network Meeting

Wednesday 5th October
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

[Register Here](#)

Before You Go

This month our Auckland Regional Network Coordinator again provided us with a smile.

“God, how long is a million years?”

“To me, it’s about a minute.”

“God, how much is a million dollars?”

“To me, it’s a penny.”

“God, may I have a penny?”

“Wait a minute.”

Members’ Only Facebook and LinkedIn Groups

Our open Facebook page is:

[NZDSN Facebook](#)

Our Members’ Only Facebook group is:

[Facebook Members’ Only](#)

Our LinkedIn New Zealand Disability Support Network profile is:

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