**NZDSN**

News Update 10/03/2023

# **Inside This Issue**

[Inside This Issue 1](#_Toc128580162)

[A message from our CEO 1](#_Toc128580163)

[1](#_Toc128580164)

[What I need to know 1](#_Toc128580165)

[Other News 2](#_Toc128580166)

[2](#_Toc128580167)

[2](#_Toc128580168)

[Events 2](#_Toc128580169)

[Nice to know… 2](#_Toc128580170)

[What have we been busy with in February? 2](#_Toc128580171)

[Valentine’s Day in the disability sector 2](#_Toc128580172)

[ 2](#_Toc128580173)

# **A message from our CEO**

This last month or so into the New Year has been a real eye-opener. No sooner have we seemingly managed to get on top of COVID and its main impacts on our sector, but then along comes massive weather challenges, flooding, rain, wind, and more. We feel for our colleagues and the disabled folk and their families in Auckland, Northland, and the other areas hit by this adverse weather and the more recent cyclone, and I hope you are safe and well.

We now know the next General Election is set for October – not that long away. What some hadn’t expected was the change at the top, with Chris Hipkins becoming our Prime Minister following the resignation of Jacinda. And along with that, a Cabinet re-shuffle and a new Minister of Disability Issues, Priyanca Radhakrishnan. Lots of change. We have already started work preparing an update for the new Minister ahead of an introductory meeting.

Work is progressing on the Care and Support Worker Pay Equity claim. Interviews have been held and assessment of the interviews and a job profile drafted. This profile will need to reflect the complexity and variability of the support worker role and the different situations in which the role performs. Once this is complete, the agreed profile can be compared to the “comparator” roles to determine alignment and then any inequity.

The process was to have been completed by the end of June, but that is under increasing pressure. All efforts are being made to complete the claim as soon as possible.



*Peter Reynolds (CEO)*

# 

# **What I need to know**

In February, we posted a message of [Support for NGO's and Community Groups](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner/posts/845622989870383/)

We also have an important notice from Whaikaha and [Updated critical incident and death forms](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner/posts/845677849864897/)

[Census 2023](https://www.facebook.com/NZDSN/posts/pfbid02zUC9xtaxZ9BBY5RF7k53C1Jiz4n6PjcyWenyVUMttSfcTtcK3CYoW3PWttHRA6cSl) is nearly upon us and Providers will need information.

# **Other News**

# 

The [disability sector needs funding to meet minimum wage boost](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner/posts/846232543142761/) As of the first of April, the minimum wage increases to $21.20. Can you afford it?

NZDSN is petitioning to help you adderess your [funding concerns](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner/posts/846229679809714/) and we have some [funding concerns of our own](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner/posts/846232543142761)

NZDSN in Partnership with Anxiety NZ have released their [Anxiety fact sheet](https://www.facebook.com/NZDSN/posts/pfbid02bF5y4yvw7fVbKqbb2vE8uQuUKfvjQonkDJFMog16ctgvhA4b2wnem3ayr8ZrCFDVl)

# 

# **Events**

EGL Leadership Programme in partnership with Humanly, This is about to start again for 2023. Please keep an eye on your inbox for details.

You can register for the Online Centralised Hubs Hui on Mon 6th March from 1.00 to 2.30pm here

# **Nice to know…**



Paula Tesoriero, CEO of Whaikaha, has agreed to take time out of her busy schedule to attend quarterly NZDSN Board meetings in order to hear concerns, issues and ideas.



# **What have we been busy with in February?**

In the policy space, we have focused our lobbying and advocacy activities on some pressing issues for the sector. These include housing for disabled people, funding, workforce issues, and ongoing pay equity settlements. monitored, and the broader disability community

# 

# **World Down Syndrome Observance**

21st March

There are 5 things that people with Down Syndrome would like you to know according to [healthdirect Australia](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/blog/5-things-people-with-down-syndrome-want-you-to-know#:~:text=People%20with%20Down%20syndrome%20can%20expect%20to%20live%20to%2060,line%20with%20the%20general%20population)

****

[**NZDSN Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/NZDSN)

[**Facebook Members' Only**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/memberscorner)

[**New Zealand Disability Support Network**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/)

[**LinkedIn**](https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-zealand-disability-support-network/posts/?feedView=all&viewAsMember=true)

[**LinkedIn Members' Only**](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14017065/)