**NZDSN**

News Update 09/06/2023

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# **A message from our CEO**



*Peter Reynolds (CEO)*

Following the announcement of the Budget, we now appear to be moving into election campaign mode with increased polls and parties jostling for position.

NZDSN has published an analysis of the government’s Budget **on our social media and atrtached to the end of this newsletter**. The main thrust for our sector is the increase in funding of 8.2%, or $863.6 million over four years. Such a significant investment is great and to be applauded. The main issue with the Budget is that Whaikaha won’t tell us how that will be spent. The Budget announcement states that the funds will go toward meeting increased demand and offsetting cost increases. Note: more demand = more referrals = more cost. If your service is running at a loss now, that will get worse with increased demand, assuming you have the extra spaces. The main problem is we don’t know how much has been tagged for increased demand and how much has been tagged for offsetting increasing costs. Offsetting costs means getting services back toward meeting all costs of delivery. We need assurances from government of how the dollars will be spent so we can plan.

Finally, congratulations to those individuals who received recognition for their extraordinary efforts in the recent King’s Honours announcement. We particularly congratulate John Taylor on his ONZM. John has been supporting the disability sector for over 35 years. He has been leading the establishment of the Enabling Good Lives approach in the New Zealand disability sector and led the integration of disability services into the NZDSN in 2010. He has been the CEO of Community Connections since 2007, helping improve capabilities through a Level Three Certificate in Human Services, making this qualification compulsory for staff to complete. He was Chair of the NZDSN and a member of the National Reference Group for the Ministry of Health. He has developed his Te Reo Māori to develop Community Connections into a bicultural service provider, developing hapū-based disability services in Eastern Bay of Plenty. He has contributed to international conferences, network events, and facilitated employment opportunities for disabled people. He is a member of the Whaikaha Disability Funding Consultation Group and Advisor to the Health and Disability Commissioner for Disability Support Services. John is a member of the steering group for the High and Complex Framework Review, which looks at the operation of the Intellectual Disability Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation Act. The NZDSN Board, on behalf of our many members, extend a warm congratulations to John on this recognition.

We also congratulate Bryce Dinneen MNZM, Tauranga; and Christine Richardson, Wellington, for services to Special Olympics and the community.

# **What I need To Know**

**NZDSN’s Conference** is only just over a month

away! Have you registered yet?

[**You can find more infomation and register here**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/nzdsn-2023-conference/)**.**

The conference theme is “Disability Support – at the Crossroads” reflecting the many challenges we now face; some old and some new.

The conference focusses primarily on four key sub-themes:

Commissioning and Funding services

Workforce;

Accessibility and Housing;

Pay Equity

We have exciting keynote speakers:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan | A person in a suit  Description automatically generated with medium confidencePaul Gibson |
| A picture containing person, clothing, human face, smile  Description automatically generatedRt Hon Sir Bill English | A person sitting in a wheelchair  Description automatically generatedRed Nicholson |
| A person in a pink shirt  Description automatically generated with low confidenceBen Drew | Amy Ross |

**The dates: 18th and 19th July 2023**

The venue is Takina, the new Wellington Convention Centre (opposite Te Papa).

## **NZDSN 2023 Awards**

NZDSN is very pleased to announce we are again seeking nominations for a series of Awards for your brilliant efforts over five categories, to be awarded at the Conference.

The Awards information and nomination form can be found here:

[**Nomination Form**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230531-2023-NZDSN-Awards-Nomination-Form.pdf)

[**Information**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/nzdsn-2023-conference/)

[**NZDSN**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/nzdsn-2023-conference/)

Let’s not miss the opportunity to recognise those who have done so well over the past year or two in the face of many challenges!

## **Pay Equity Update – Care and Support Worker Claim**

We have now completed the investigative phase of the Care and Support Workers Pay Equity Claim, and are well advanced in preparation for bargaining, with pre-bargaining continuing and bargaining dates scheduled for next month.

We are now working towards reaching an in-principle settlement by the end of July.

The peak bodies (NZDSN, Platform, NZACA, HCHA) are taking a lead in discussions with Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission and the health agencies to look at possible scenarios for any extension of a settlement to other employers in the sectors covered by the claim, and how that would be managed.

## **Pay Equity Update – Front-Line Managers**

A decision has finally been reached regarding the lead funder and a resource allocation has been offered to the named employers and unions in the claim to help meet the extraordinary work required. This resource allocation is well-below what it will take to complete this claim, and so negotiations continue.

## **Pay Equity Update - Recent Communications**

Recently, Te Whatu Ora wrote to all the services they contract offering a 5% funding increase. TWO included an expectation that the increased funding would be used to increase care and support worker wage rates. The peak bodies have alerted their members to the risks of doing this. Firstly, it is not the role of TWO to dictate how a funding increase is to be used. Secondly, if an employer uses that increase to lift support worker wage rates, they will be excluded from receiving the benefits of any subsequent pay equity settlement. Thus, the risk is your service will miss out on much-needed funding to off-set increased costs while a wage increase is imminent in any event under the pay equity claim.

# **Nice To Know**

## **Ihc Capture The Moment**

IHC’s photography competition, “Capture the Moment” - entries opened on Thursday 1 June and close on Friday 30 June 2023.

People aged 13 and over with an intellectual disability or an intellectual disability and autism can enter.  The competition has a theme ““your Aotearoa, New Zealand**".**We would love to see your photos of your Aotearoa. This could be a photo of the city or town you live in, the farm, the beach, sunset or sunrise, your favourite trees or flowers, animals, or even the way things look after a big storm, flood, or earthquake. This is a chance to share your Aotearoa!

Photographers have until Friday 30 June 2023 to submit their entries via the online entry form.  Photos can be black and white or colour but only one photo per photographer is allowed.

We have three judges; Dame Denise L’Estrange-Corbet, Shayne Jeffares and Anna Briggs who will complete their judging online in July / August 2023 and select 30 finalists which will include first, second and third place winners as well as a Youth Award winner.  Prize money amounts are below:

First place:               $2,500

Second place:          $1,500

Third place:              $1,000

Youth Award:           $1,500

All 30 finalists' photographs will also be exhibited at FOTO FEST from 15 to 25 September 2023 in Hastings (venue to be confirmed).  All 30 finalists’ photographs will be available for sale with 100% of the sale proceeds going to the artist.

Images can be submitted online without being framed, however, if a photographer is selected as a finalist, they will need to mount and / or frame their photo for exhibition and forward it to IHC National Office before the required deadline (to be confirmed).

For further information, people can either visit the website below or email **ihc.events@ihc.org.nz**

For more information see:

[**ihc Capture The Moment**](https://www.ihc.org.nz/get-involved/capture-the-moment)

## **New disability centre for under-5s opens in Hawke’s Bay**

Amidst cyclone recovery, many families in Hawke’s Bay can find solace in the opening of the Pudney Hub, a new disability centre for children under 5.

[**Read More**](https://linkonline.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0458c065b5f59775cd81f0a14&id=a4e2a161b6&e=48c4c769f8)

# **Events**

## **Auckland – Disability Support Provider Focused Event, 28th June, 9.30 to 12.30**

We are gathering together for a networking focused event for Disability Support Providers. From our last Auckland Regional Network meeting: *“the Realities of EGL: Our Learning, Our Aspirations, Our Call to Action”*, we were collectively energised to form an Auckland Leadership Team.

A core group of six Providers, and a larger group of about 15 Providers, have been coming together at this seed stage to develop the Auckland Providers EGL Capability Team (APEC Team). A starting point purpose of this new team is to generate a collective of Disability Support Providers thinking together about range and shape of well-connected and collaborative services to better meet the needs of disabled people.

The meeting is aimed at Disability Support Providers to grow our collective capability with a provider and networking focus.

To better support the needs of disabled people, we aim to gain knowledge of the whole system approach, learn from each other embedding the EGL principles and gain collective strength.

## **Regional Provider Network Meetings**

Check out our website for upcoming Regional Provider Network meetings in or close to your service. An opportunity to network, share issues, solutions, or just share.

[**You can find more infomation and register here**](https://nzdsn.org.nz/nzdsn-2023-conference/).

## **Te Pou Kia Noho Rangatira Ai Tātou Online Workshop**

Kia Noho Rangatira Ai Tātou is a unique education programme that was developed by Te Pou and the Disabled Persons Assembly. The programme puts human rights for disabled people and the Disability Convention into a New Zealand cultural context. This 10 hour online workshop series will be held over four 2.5 hour modules.

[**Te Pou Kia Noho Rangatira Ai Tātou Online Workshop**](https://www.tepou.co.nz/events/kia-noho-rangatira-ai-t%C4%81tou-online-workshop-june-2023?fbclid=IwAR1m7cjFImYFKn7Ljqms8pX-W_kBpJ8dH9Ks36TMHOjfEtA2XJw0ULdwHGY)

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[**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/)

## **The 2023 Budget**

Budget 2023 will provide $863.6 million over four years to help ease cost pressures on Government disability support services.

Funding will increase from $2.074b in 2022/23 to 2.245b in 2023/2024

**Public transport**

Budget 2023 also makes half price fares for Total Mobility services permanent (along with half price fares for people as 13-25 and free fares for those aged 5-12).

**Wage Supplement to Replace Minimum Wage Exemptions**

This initiative provides funding to introduce a wage supplement to replace the Minimum Wage Exemption (MWE) permits that are currently issued to approximately 800 disabled employees in New Zealand, allowing them to be paid less than minimum wage. A wage supplement will replace MWE permits while protecting existing jobs, ensuring disabled people are paid at least the minimum wage when the supplement is considered.

**Employment Programmes – Oranga Mahi**

This initiative provides $36m in funding over two years for six health and employment trial services that support disabled New Zealanders to find and retain work, along with operational support to support the continued delivery of the Oranga Mahi programme. Oranga Mahi services are delivered in partnership with health agencies and community organisations to improve employment and wellbeing outcomes for disabled people and people with health conditions.

**Employment Service in Schools – Cost Pressure**

This initiative provides $2m in funding to continue Employment Services in Schools (ESIS) in five regions. ESIS supports disabled students with careers and transition support, work experience, placements and on-the-job employment support to participate fully in the labour market. It also supports employers to provide appropriate work environments and equips whānau and schools to assist the transition into education, employment, and training.

**Maintaining Momentum Across Te Aorerekura – Accessible Family Violence and Sexual Violence Services for Disabled People**

This initiative provides funding to establish a time-limited, contestable fund, to support MSD-funded family violence and sexual violence service providers to better meet the accessibility needs of disabled people. Providers who apply to the fund will receive an independent, specialist assessment of the accessibility of their organisation and services, with a plan for recommended improvements and funding to implement the plan, enabling providers to respond more appropriately to disabled people.

**Funding boost a welcome relief for disability service providers**

The disability sector is breathing a sigh of relief after the significant boost to funding in this year’s Budget, says New Zealand Disability Support Network CEO Peter Reynolds.

“The disability sector has been crying out for more funding as inflation has chipped away at our ability to provide services and retain staff. Disability providers want to pay staff fairly, but we have needed government funding to do so,” says Reynolds.

“This money will help to address the staffing crisis the sector has been facing due to the combined pressure of the need to pay staff more and to increase staffing levels to meet rising demand for disability services.

“The sector is currently working through pay equity negotiations to boost the incomes of disability support workers. Providers have been clear with the government that we need more money to enable a fair outcome.

“While this extra funding will help with the immediate cost pressures disability service providers are facing, that is not the end of the story. There is still a huge amount of unmet need in the disability community and that is going to require ongoing funding increases above the rate of inflation for years to come. On top of that, costs will continue to ratchet up. NZDSN will continue to engage with the government on these issues”, says Reynolds.