


NZDSN News Update 27/10/2023

A message from our CEO

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Peter Reynolds (CEO)

We now have answers to two of the great imponderables of life: we know we have a National-led coalition government to look forward to over the next three years; and we know the All Blacks made the final of the 2023 Rugby World Cup!

While we await the final shape of the new Government and who the incoming Minister for Disability Issues might be, at NZDSN we work on the “BIM” or Briefing for Incoming Minister. This document outlines the state of the sector as we see it, the significant issues we are facing, what needs to happen to address those issues and our priorities for the year.

The problem areas we face are doggedly consistent: funding woes, for some – workforce shortage woes, accessibility issues, housing and accommodation issues, what the rollout of EGL will look like and how this may impact on providers and existing clients alike, Whaikaha’ s deinstitutionalisation project “My Home, My Choice” and the remainder of their transformation programme.

So, we see that irrespective of the shade of the new government, life goes on. From my desk, pay equity continues to be the gift that keeps on giving!

Everyone involved in working hard to clear the roadblock that impacts on both claims and progress things toward settlement.

I presented last week at the Health, Aged and Disability Care Workforce Leaders Forum. While very health-focused, the event did present an opportunity to reiterate our view that an overall Disability Workforce Strategy is very much needed, to give funders and the sector a view of the future and how we want to get there.

I had the opportunity to explore some on-line tools to collect data from the sector and report back to providers' benchmarks of how they are tracking against key areas.

Last Friday I also had the opportunity to host a meeting on health and safety concerns and how these might be addressed.

Looking ahead, we are slowly building up momentum on our own review of Employment Support services to support the re-contracting cycle led by MSD next year. I am also looking forward to catching up with a number of our provider members over the next week or two, supporting them to resolve issues they face where we can.

Other News

Next Auckland Regional Network (ARN) meeting is on Wed 15th November from 9.30am to 12.30pm held at CCS Disability Action Royal Oak. Early networking at 9am. It is a Strategy 2024 Workshop facilitated by the APEC Team (Auckland Providers EGL Capability Team). We have sent out an invitation and survey to determine what our

collective priorities are for 2024, to tailor the workshop to key focus areas where we will ask, "What can we do as a Collective that we can't do alone?" Peter will be delivering the Opening and Closing Remarks based on those focus areas and join the table discussions. [Register early](#), limited seating.

The APEC Team are continuing to work together to grow our capability, capacity, confidence and collective voice as Providers in Auckland since May 2023. We are at the grassroots seed stage and strategizing for 2024. The APEC Team will be co-facilitating the workshop at our ARN meeting on the 15th Nov.

Auckland Disability Volunteer Advisory Team has been initiated after the Volunteer Development Workshop at our last ARN Meeting in Sept. We have about 10 organisations who have joined, including leaders from I. Lead and A Supported Life. They will be coming together to collaborate with Cheryl Martin, QSO, from Volunteering Auckland on 22nd November, 2023.

Auckland Employment Support Network have started meeting again. Ideas were shared and concerns expressed. A couple initiatives will be followed up including supporting the National Employment Support Advisory Group that will include an MSD Contract Review. There was also an interest to focus on 'customised roles' for the collective in the new year

Appreciating Accessible Communities is a video series showcasing the exceptional stories of the difference our great services make with the people we support. These stories highlight the EGL approach and the valuable community connections that lay the important

foundations for EGL to work so well. The intention is to increase awareness and appreciation for the fantastic and valuable work we do in communities. Please get in touch with Kristi to get your stories included and shared: aucklandproviders@nzdsn.org.nz

The NZDSN regional network meetings continue:

Auckland

REGISTER NOW for 15th November 2023.

Any Queries please contact Kristi aucklandproviders@nzdsn.org.nz These meetings will be face to face where possible but via zoom when necessary.

Lower North Island

Please book for these events here www.nzdsn.org.nz/events
Venue: Community Connections 5 Sheffield St, Paraparaumu or Zoom if required

Times/ Date as below:

- Friday 17 November 2023
10:30am – 12:30pm **REGISTER NOW**

Northland

Please contact Adam.Dade@northable.org.nz for update.

Waikato

Date: Thursday 16 November **Time:** 10am – 2pm **Venue:** Community Living (180 Collingwood Street, Hamilton WAIKATO 3204, New Zealand.

Manawatu

Please contact Mike on mike@options.org.nz for more details.

- Monday 27 November 2023

Nelson

Bookings for these events are not open at this time, please contact Karen.Bailey@nmdhb.govt.nz for updates

Times/dates for 2023 as below. These meetings will be via zoom. Please email Karen Bailey Karen.Bailey@nmdhb.govt.nz for the link.

Canterbury

Please contact Canterbury Providers cantdpn@gmail.com for more information.

- Wednesday 1 November 2023

Otago

Bookings for these events are not open at this time, please contact info@cct.org.nz for updates
Times dates and venue will be advised in the new year.

Please note that registration for all of the regional meetings which require registration can be done via the events tab on the NZDSN website.

Nice to know...

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 03/12/2023

The IDPWD theme for 2023 is **Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.**

We are more innovative than ever before and it is crucial for everyone to use their innovative spirit to find creative solutions for removing barriers to an inclusive and equitable world.

Innovating an accessible and equitable world



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