



## NZDSN News Update 20/12/2023

## A message from our CEO

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*Peter Reynolds (CEO)*

12 Days til Christmas! And still plenty on the work programme.

### **Pay Equity**

We are still awaiting a copy of Te Whatu Ora's (TWO) independent review of the Care and Support Worker Claim first tabled on 6 July 2022. That claim was under pressure to be completed within 12 months. We're 15 months and counting. We've been promised a copy of the draft review report shortly and are keen to see if the reviewers have endorsed the approach taken by the employers and unions (which (after all) has followed the government's process, or whether they will argue sections need to be re-done in order to drive down the undervaluation level. Otherwise, this claim is still pretty much stalled.

TWO have advised that they are giving until 26<sup>th</sup> January for feedback from the claim parties, meaning a final report isn't likely before mid-February. Assuming TWO then gain Cabinet approval for a budget for the employers to negotiate with, that's at least March. Then formal negotiations can commence between the employers and unions. My original



bet was settlement by March. It's looking more like April/May.

Meanwhile the unions have lodged the second claim against 167 employers. We are working through the steps necessary to ensure that claim progresses until we can consolidate (if that's possible).

### **Front-Line Manager's Claim**

#### ***Milestone 1 is complete.***

The Bargaining Process Agreement (BPA) is complete.

The selection of comparators is delayed due to E tu not being able to engage at this time. Both TWO and Whaikaha have agreed to apply some resource to the claim to assist the parties to complete the work required.

### **Abuse in Care**

We are working with the Crown Response Unit to influence the recommendations and future processes with the provider context.

### **Funding**

I'm afraid I have no good news here as we continue to seek more appropriate levels of funding from Whaikaha and other funders for the services you provide. We are pulling together a provider project to explore the cost of service across all service types and what support option gaps exist to achieve enabling good lives. More on this as it develops.

### **Service Design and Commissioning**

Another area we hope to explore further in the New Year is what would need to

change with existing service specifications and contracts to enable the people we serve to experience a truly enabling good lives experience.

When I talk to providers around the country, many point to the one obstacle they face daily that prevents them from achieving that truly enabling good lives experience. Their contract. And/or some aspect of their service specification. Flexible Disability Support was meant to respond to these barriers, but so far has failed to do so. We want to update that work and provide meaningful input into Whaikaha's future service design activities.

### **Employment Support**

As mentioned previously, we are re-assembling the Employment Support Advisory Group. Their first meeting has been scheduled. One of the key areas I am keen for this group to explore is to get our review of the Employment Support MSD contract and service specification underway.

### **New Government**

As we all now know, we have a new three-way coalition government. I've been through the two coalition agreements. As we know there is no specific reference to the disability sector – support providers or those we support. From what I can gather, there one area we might want to watch carefully is the reference to housing. The policy suggestions here might benefit respite availability and will be something we seek to explore with Ministers and officials over the coming weeks and months.



Meanwhile, I continue to seek time with the new Minister, Hon Penny Simmonds to discuss these issues and those addressed in our Briefing document. I published this on our website and encourage you to read it. Feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, observations.

### The Break

I use the word “break” advisedly. For some of you, there’s no such thing. And for some, you may have a chance to get away and re-charge the batteries. Either way, I want to take this opportunity to thank you – for all that you and your teams do in sometimes trying circumstances. I do hope that Christmas and the New Year gives you some opportunity to relax, even if just a little. I also thank you for your support of our sector through your NZDSN membership. Our collective voice will be even more valuable as we approach the many challenges next year will bring.

## Other News

Our Auckland Regional Coordinator has a round up of 2023 and a summary of coming events, including a meeting with Peter on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December for the Auckland Funding Sub-Group.

- The Auckland Funding Sub-Group are having their first meeting with Peter on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- The APEC Team (Auckland Providers EGL Capability Team) are taking a very well-deserved rest, and meeting again at the end of January 2024.

- The Auckland Disability Volunteer Advisory Group met again with Cheryl Martin, QSO, of Volunteering Auckland to help her draft up a funding application to create the Auckland Disability Volunteer Guide in 2024.

### What’s Coming Up in 2024 in Auckland:

- Auckland Council will be putting out its Long-Term Plan for community consultation (28 Feb to 28 March). The co-chair of the Auckland Disability Advisory Panel has suggested there may be a couple red flags in there that will require individual and collective submissions. We are looking to create an online hui specific to the disability sector to help inform us.
- Total Mobility Scheme is being reviewed and will include consultation in the early part of 2024.
- Our Auckland Regional Network meeting dates are confirmed for Wednesdays at 9.30am to 12.30pm, with early networking at 9am:
  - 27th March
  - 19th June
  - 11th September
  - 27th November

Please put these dates in your diaries so you won’t miss out. The venue will be at the beautiful CCS Disability Action - Royal Oak.



## Auckland

Any Queries please contact Kristi  
[aucklandproviders@nzdsn.org.nz](mailto:aucklandproviders@nzdsn.org.nz)

These meetings will be face to face where possible but via zoom when necessary.

The ARN meetings for 2024 are scheduled from 9:30 – 12:30 on:

- 27th March
- 19th June
- 11th September
- 27th November

## Lower North Island

Please book for these events here [www.nzdsn.org.nz/events](http://www.nzdsn.org.nz/events)

**Venue:** Community Connections 5 Sheffield St, Paraparaumu or Zoom if required

## Northland

Please contact [Adam.Dade@northable.org.nz](mailto:Adam.Dade@northable.org.nz) for update.

## Waikato

Meeting dates will be published once finalised.

## Manawatu

Please contact Mike on [mike@options.org.nz](mailto:mike@options.org.nz) for more details.

## Nelson

Meeting dates will be published once finalised.

## Canterbury

Please contact Canterbury Providers [cantdpn@gmail.com](mailto:cantdpn@gmail.com) for more information.

## Otago

Bookings for these events are not open at this time, please contact [info@cct.org.nz](mailto: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.

## In Our Opinion

[Thursday 14th of December - Pay Equity](#)  
[Friday 8th of December - Pay Equity](#)  
[Thursday 7th of December - Pay Equity](#)

## Nice to know...

### World Braille Day 04/01/2024

Valentin Haüy was the first person to emboss paper in order that it could be read by blind people. This method entailed the printing of normal letters in relief (embossing them) and in turn led



to other people creating simpler versions, only one of which is still in use. This version was named Moon Type.

### Moon-type



*Britannica Logo*

## Take A Minute

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."

- *Nido Qubein*



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[LinkedIn](#)  
[LinkedIn Members' Only](#)  
[X \(former Twitter\)](#)