

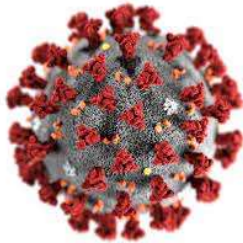
NEWSLETTER



Funding and the Challenges faced by Whaikaha

Whaikaha have three challenges following the change in government. Firstly, they are overspent in their Crown budget for services. Second, they have to return 7.5% of their Departmental Budget that will impact on their work programme. And third, they know they have to respond – somehow – to the cost pressures the sector is facing for next year.

Work is underway, but no answers yet. A CEO's Group is being pulled together to work with Whaikaha officials to identify efficiency opportunities and perhaps solve a few service barriers at the same time. Until then, no answers to our many questions.



Public consultations - Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned

As may you know, in December 2022 the Government announced the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry to look at lessons learned from Aotearoa New Zealand's response to COVID-19 that should be applied in preparation for any future pandemic.

On 8 February 2024, the Inquiry began inviting the New Zealand public to share their COVID-19 experiences with us. These submissions are an important part of the Inquiry's work. Alongside this opportunity to share their COVID-19 stories, the New Zealand public will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the terms of reference.

The Department of Internal Affairs now has an additional resource available in NZSL to share information about both parts of the consultation process here: <https://youtu.be/awhUOWqg59U>. This is a short video that gives a brief summary of the consultation and where people can take part. Please do feel free to share this with anyone who may find it useful.



What impact has the Government's funding clawback had on MSD?

"The Ministry is committed to supporting the government's priorities and its savings exercise. The Government is looking to find \$1.5 billion per annum in savings to deliver on policy commitments and address critical cost pressures. The target percentage for the Ministry is 6.5 percent. We have been working on our proposal for consideration by Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment, and Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Disability Issues.

I wish to assure you that the Ministry remains committed to ensuring that the needs of disabled people are met, and that disabled people can lead safe, fulfilling, and good lives."



Minimum wage increases from 1 April

As a business owner or manager, you need to be ready for the minimum wage rates increase from 1 April 2024.

- Adult starting wage will go up from \$22.70 to \$23.15 an hour.

Starting-out and training minimum wage will go up from \$18.16 to \$18.52 an hour.



NZDSN is hosting a Consultation with Disability Support Providers and the Disabled People/Whanau we work with on the Auckland Council's Long-Term Plan (ACLTP):

Tues 12th March 11.30am to 12.30pm

The community consultation by Auckland Council will be between 28th Feb and the 28th March. We want to learn specifically how it will affect disabled people, their whanau, and Disability Support Providers.

We have invited Martine Abel-Williamson (co-chair of Auckland Disability Advisory Panel) and Sarah Paterson-Hamlin (Whau Local Board Member + previous CEO of the UpsideDowns Education Trust) to come together to share with us the key disability issues and considerations regarding the ACLTP.

Register [here](#) for this NZDSN event by Friday 8th March.

Auckland Regional Network Meeting – Wed 27 March 9/9.30am to 12.30pm

Innovation of Sector Services & Growing EGL Confidence and Capability.

In November 2023, we focused on **our first collective strategic priority for 2024: Funding – Clarity & Consistency**. From this collaboration, an Auckland Funding Sub-Group was formed.

This March, we will be focused on two of our other collective strategic priorities: **Innovation of Sector Services & Growing EGL Confidence and Capability**. We will have three sessions to listen to our special guest speakers, and time for Q&A with table and group discussions.

Register [here](#) for this NZDSN event by Friday 22nd March.

Auckland Disability Volunteer Advisory (ADVA) Group

Has received funding to work with Volunteering Auckland to:

- a. Develop a bespoke Disability Support Guide that will inform and support NGO organisations to engage well with disabled people as volunteers.
- b. Develop a model framework of an NGO organizational Volunteer Strategy that includes a Purpose, Policies and Practices that encompass people with disabilities.

If you would like to contribute to this mahi, and you have time and commitment, please contact Kristi aucklandproviders@nzdsn.org.nz.



Creating safer spaces: understanding workplace violence in care and support services

Do you work in mental health and addiction, disability support or home and community care?

This survey is about workers' experiences of violence in care and support work. This could be physical violence (e.g. hitting, pinching etc), psychological (e.g. threats, bullying,

intimidation) or sexual violence (unwanted sexual attention or contact).

If you are a care/support worker (incl. peer support workers & cultural support workers) or are a team leader/manager then please share your experiences by answering this survey [MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "aut.au1.qualtrics.com" claiming to be http://bit.ly/426kXhn](http://bit.ly/426kXhn)

Independent external assurance review

I have sought clarification from Whaikaha on the independent external assurance review being conducted by the Commissioning, Design and Delivery team, which some providers have raised with me. This is a positive step being taken by Whaikaha to identify improvements in their **internal** systems and processes to support their ongoing contracting management practices.

The review findings will help inform what improvements may be required to ensure 'fit for purpose' systems and processes to support the disability support system. This will have benefits also for providers who interface with those systems and processes.

Whaikaha will keep us up to date. We see this as a positive step forward as Whaikaha works to create a great organisation.



Budget booked

The Budget will be delivered on May 30 and will set out the Government's tax relief plans, Finance Minister Nicola Willis has announced. The Government's Budget priorities will be set out in the Budget Policy Statement on March 27.

Did you KNOW - Irregularities in calling Meetings

With the new **Incorporated Societies Act 2022**, The General Meeting and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more Members do not receive notice of the General Meeting.

The General Meeting and its business will not be invalidated by an irregularity, error or omission in notices, agendas and relevant papers of the General Meeting or the omission to give notice within the required time frame or the omission to give notice to all Members and any other error in the organisation of the General Meeting if:

- (1) the Chair in their discretion determines that it is still appropriate for the General Meeting to proceed despite the irregularity, error, or omission; and
- (2) a motion to proceed is put to the General Meeting and a majority, of two-thirds of votes cast, is obtained in favour of the motion to proceed.



Free RATs available until 30th June 2024

RATs will continue to be available to the health and disability care sector and public for free until 30 June 2024.

This is to support effective ongoing management of COVID-19 outbreaks, to enable access to antiviral medications to people

access to antiviral medications to people at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and to help reduce the impact of the virus on hospital admission rates.

The public can continue to access free RATs through national distribution network of participating pharmacies and RAT collection sites as listed on [Healthpoint](#).

Healthcare providers can continue to order RATs from the Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora Central Supply as normal through the Portal.

If you have any questions, please contact: COVID.HealthSupplyChain@health.govt.nz

Find out more about testing click [here](#).

Graduate Dip in Disability Sector Leadership – scholarships available

NZDSN is pleased to announce we have secured a number of scholarship placements for the above course. Fees free enables emerging leaders in our sector to study toward this qualification. For more information, [click here](#)

Growing Voice and Safety – Whaikaha Project

We are writing to let you know the Growing Voice and Safety project is underway.

Procurement processes have begun to find appropriate organisations to deliver these two new services:

- Growing Voice and Safety – People for Us
- Growing Voice and Safety – Assisting Change

We have put further information on the Whaikaha website

<https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/programmes-strategies-and-studies/programmes/growing-voice-and-safety>

People for Us is currently open for registrations of interest and a supplier briefing is being held next week, details on the website.

Assisting Change has just begun its procurement process with a Request For Proposal, details also on the website.

New Zealand Disability Support Network