

NZDSN Conference – 17th/18th June 2024

Messages for the Minister

- Lack of accessibility, bring flexibility back
- Review how disabled people's rights are upheld when in hospital
- Please make all budgets for support, personal budgets that the disabled person/ whanau control.
- The change in the purchasing rules removes the flexible disability supports. People can no longer use their disability funding to access what other government departments have failed to (are meant to and won't/ don't) provide.
- Other funding streams should be required to deliver timely and appropriate support before Tangata lose the ability to utilise their funding.
- Fully fund pay equity
- Address the inequity in programmes/activity costs for high/very high that require support staff to participate or transition into.
- Please start some new initiatives to vastly improve Q.O.L. for intellectually disabled people.
- Please consult disabled people to co-design Autism specific services for adults – missing.
- People with intellectual disabilities are always forgotten, behind the queue. And people with ID, with VERY HIGH & COMPLEX NEEDS don't even get into the queue. They have rights, freedom to choose their support and who they live with etc, but it is very hard to get the mechanism right. They will always need residential care – which is the most economic way to manage the support, as well as giving people the right to live with their friends, loved ones etc. Some children need special schools – mainstream first is fine, but some Tamariki flourish only in a specialised environment. Please can you protect funding for specialised education and residential care/ support for those who are the most vulnerable in our society?
- Pay Equity should be fully funded.
- Listen, take note of what family/ whanau/ disabled person are saying. Every situation is different, with complex and different challenges. See the difference and how many don't have enough support, the number is struggling. So many don't understand the system, entitlements from all agencies.
- Prevention of further costs starts with fair pay to enable a sustainable workforce that has the certainty of adequate income. How can Pay Equity be resolved to enable this to be a reality if "contribution", not full funding, is the rhetoric?
- How do you plan to collaborate with the rest of those accessing disability support services from ACC, Aged and those who identify as disability without wanting support? NASC only funds 10-15%. of those who identify as disabled, yet we claim to have the ministry that represents all disabled people.
- How can we get the wait list for communication assessments reduced from the existing two-to-five year wait list, to something that meets the needs of the people can't speak or ask for themselves?
- Who cares for the carers. Don't forget the families.
- Are you going to support Social Enterprises in the disability areas. What support are you giving?
- Are going to see support for ADHD in the review?

- Is the home and community health sector going to be included as a key provider of services to those pre-disability services (prevention)
- How can “links” between sectors to (be developed) ensure person-centred care (social determinants of health)
- What is the time frame for pay equity settlements?
- Please focus some strong advocacy on completing the Pay Equity Claims for Kaimahi.
- In response to Hon. Upston korero - BEGINNING EARLY, encouraging Ministry of Education to intentionally look into disability training provided at teaching institutions. I spoke to a recent graduate in January who referenced one term, one class, on disability that was not fit for purpose
- Comment on the new purchasing rules around “respite”. This has changed strength-based language and aspirations to "dumbing it down" to “respite”. e.g. funding will pay for that activity as a form of respite for the primary carer. Prior to 18 May Korero would have been attending activities around building capacity/ capability with intentional outcomes – not just
- EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT (ES):
 - Barrier removal funding to be the same as jobseeker barrier removal funding (BRF)
 - Jobseeker benefit receivers have the option to get (via the provider) access to funding to achieve fully paid-for driving licence. Not available via ES
 - Our ES clients only get driver licences funded as BRF if they have a job already lined up (too late). Please include licences and driving lessons an approved BRF before a job offer to increase the chance of a job offer.
- How can we make the system more user-friendly for school leavers?
- We need more clearer criteria for DSL levels
- What is the retirement plan for disabled individuals over GST. Rest homes are not equipped for them. Disappointed of little talk about pay equity.
- Invest in disability prevention – use the savings to fund disability services for non-preventable disability. There are so many cost-effective quick wins – ACC invest in prevention, Whaikaha should too! Support you described in your speech. Because it works!
- Employment Support – principle align well with EGL and provides ongoing in work Support you described in your speech. NZ was starving to get real traction with our ES especially in the mental health space. Why did the government stop these contracts?
- Will the funding disparity between Health, ACC and MSD be addressed?
- Pay Equity for the workers!!!
- Tools for supported decision making
- Remove sided funding mechanisms
- Regarding the Disability System Review – What’s in it for Pacific people/ services especially Pacific people with disabilities?
- Fund backbone support for collective impact initiatives the deliver efficiencies and better outcomes.
- Change the building standards for all new facilities and spaces to be based on universal design, so people cannot make “budget cuts” which usually ends in places becoming inaccessible.
- Access for all should mean access for all!
- Make it illegal to exclude disabled children from school!

- Funding may have not been cut, however how we use it has changed. Please reinstate flexible funding. Families matter!
- Less red tape for people to get things they need to have a good life
- Please come and visit us before concluding. We're an institution, an EGL hub, a community of people who choose how to live and work. You will be very welcomed. – Hohepa Hawke's Bay, Kate Hartland – (022 507 8905)
- Still lobbying 30 years for a dedicated Deaf National Mental Health service – ideally under an already existing mental health provider at least at embryo stage. It is NOT enough to just provide an interpreter and think this will bring Deaf onto a level playing field – and it will never be enough. Overseas OCD's all have this – even small countries with comparable population like Ireland – it wouldn't even take much money tbh ... just creativity and innovation. Let's DO IT!